

Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 29th January 2002

The Session commenced at 2.00pm

Oral Questions to the First Minister

The first 10 questions were answered

2.41pm

Statement

The Minister for Health & Social Services made a statement on Cancer Services in Wales

2.58pm

Business Statement: the Assembly Business Minister

The Business Statement was agreed

3.02pm

Points of Order

Nick Boune on an omission from the Record of Proceedings

Peter Black on Deputy Ministers contributing to debates which are within their portfolios

3.27pm

Plaid Cymru nominated debate

NDM938 The National Assembly:

1. Notes that the creation of safe communities is a key objective in a Plan for Wales;
2. Is concerned at the public perception that crime in many communities is on the increase
3. Calls for a review of the effectiveness of current strategies in combating crime and
4. Believes that such a review should consider the appropriateness of devolving responsibilities for the police to the National Assembly.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West)

In point 2. add at end of line, "while crime itself is decreasing".

Amendment 2 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West)

In point 3. delete "Calls for a review of" and replace with "Should review"

Amendment 3 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West)

In point 3. at end of line delete "and" and replace with "when research and evaluation information currently being compiled becomes available"

Amendment 4 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West)

In point 4. delete current text and replace with: 'Looks forward to the conclusion of the forthcoming Independent Commission on the powers of the National Assembly, due to be set up by the Welsh Assembly Government, particularly in regard to the appropriateness of devolving any further responsibilities for the police to the National Assembly.'

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 32; Abstain 0; Against 22; Total 54

Amendment 1 was carried

Amendment 2

For 32; Abstain 0; Against 22; Total 54

Amendment 2 was carried

Amendment 3

For 32; Abstain 0; Against 22; Total 54

Amendment 3 was carried

Amendment 4

For 32; Abstain 0; Against 22; Total 54

Amendment 4 was carried

The motion, as amended

For 32; Abstain 0; Against 22; Total 54

The motion, as amended, was carried

4.27pm

Conservative Party nominated debate

NDM937

1. The National Assembly acknowledges the growing pressures facing social services in Wales and notes with particular concern:

- a. The accelerating decline in the number of residential and nursing home places in Wales;
- b. The inadequate level of the fees paid to residential and nursing homes in the independent sector compared to the level of funding given by Local Authorities to their own care homes;
- c. The high and increasing number of assessments that do not lead to the provision of community care services;

- d. The difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff in the social care sector, and especially in children's services;
- e. The decline in the numbers applying for social work qualifying training.

2. The National Assembly recognises the need to:

- a. Raise the level of fees paid to residential and nursing homes in the independent sector;
- b. Increase the proportion of assessments that lead to the provision of community care services;
- c. Value and support the social care workforce in Wales;
- d. Allocate sufficient funds to help facilitate higher standards and better quality in the social care sector.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 - Andrew Davies (Swansea West)

In point 1 delete all after "services in Wales" and replace with;

" and their importance in supporting vulnerable people. It recognises the important contribution of the independent care sector and therefore welcomes the action which the Assembly is taking, working in partnership with that sector, the voluntary sector, local government and others to:

- a) promote higher quality and standards through national minimum standards, regulation and consistent, independent inspection through the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales;
- b) support the development of the social care workforce in the light of the Chief Social Services' Inspector's Report;
- c) develop revised statutory guidance on the commissioning of social care;
- d) support measures to tackle delayed transfer of care and to provide greater stability to the care home sector through the provision of £5m in 2001-2 and 2002-3; and
- e) maintain a constructive and open dialogue about issues of joint concern through regular meetings between the Minister for Health and Social Services and representatives of the independent care sector. "

and delete all of point 2.

Amendment 2- Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

In point 1 b) delete all after "independent sector"

Amendment 3 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

At end of point 1 add new sub-point:

"The anomalies of benefit entitlement between residents of the independent and statutory care sector"

Amendment 4 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

In point 2. a) delete all and replace with: "Raise both wage-levels and standards in the care sector across Wales through the level of fees paid to residential and nursing homes"

Amendment 5 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

In point 2. b) delete all and replace with "Adequately fund community care services across Wales"

Amendment 6 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

At end of point 2 add new sub-point:

"Ensure that the independent care home sector is integral to the strategic planning of local care needs. This must be done in partnership with the statutory health and social care authorities"

Amendment 7 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

At end of point 2 add new sub-point:

"Promote the importance of the independent care home, as an indigenous small business community, which is vital to the welsh economy"

Amendment 8 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

At end of point 2 add new sub-point:

"Increase recruitment and retention rates in the social care workforce across Wales"

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 32; Abstain 12; Against 7; Total 51

Amendment 1 was carried

Amendments 2 - 8 fell

The motion, as amended

For 32; Abstain 13; Against 6; Total 51

The motion, as amended, was carried

The session concluded at 5.25pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

9.05 am on Thursday, 31st January 2002

E P Silk

DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET

Documents laid on 24 January 2002

Audit Committee Report 02-02: Educating and Training the Future Health Professional Workforce in Wales - LD1216

Cost Benefit Analysis for motion NNDM911 - Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation - LD1217

Documents laid on 23 January 2002

Cabinet Response to Audit Committee Report 06-01: Maximising Income from Prescription Charges - LD1215

Legislation Committee Reports

Documents laid on 22 January 2002

LC399 - The Miscellaneous Food Additives (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002 - LD1213

LC401 - The Education Development Plans (Wales) Regulations 2002 - LD1214