



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

Title: Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure

Date: January 25th 2010

By: Deputy Minister for Social Services

Members will wish to note that the proposed Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure will be laid today, 25th January 2010. I will be making a Legislative Statement in plenary tomorrow, 26th January 2010, to introduce the proposed Measure.

The purpose of this proposed Measure is to enable the National Assembly to legislate to introduce new legal duties on the NHS and Local Authorities in Wales (“the relevant authorities”) to work jointly and in consultation with carers to prepare, publish and implement a joint strategy in relation to carers. The proposed Measure covers all local authority and NHS service provision whether these are directly provided or contracted services.

The proposed Measure will allow for detailed provision to be set out in regulations as to the preparation and publication of the strategies. It will provide Welsh Ministers with the power to make regulations about the following:

- (a) the services in respect of which the duty to prepare a strategy applies;
- (b) the matters to be dealt with in the strategy;
- (c) how and when the strategy is to be published;
- (d) keeping the strategy under review (including setting a period after which the strategy must be reviewed or replaced);
- (e) the consultation which must be undertaken before or during the preparation, implementation or review of the strategy;

- (f) arrangements to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategy;

Welsh Ministers would be able, for each strategy, to designate an NHS organisation as the lead authority for the purposes of co-ordinating and overseeing the preparation and publication of the strategy and any subsequent review.

The proposed Measure would also place a duty upon the lead authority or, where there is no designated lead, the responsible authorities acting together, to submit the strategy to Welsh Ministers. Welsh Ministers would then be required to inform the responsible authorities that they are satisfied with the draft strategy, or if they were not satisfied, give the responsible authorities such directions as considered necessary for ensuring that the strategy complies with their requirements.

I would like to thank the members of our Carers Measure Stakeholder Advisory group for their clear and well thought out advice to the Welsh Assembly Government about the policy direction for the proposed Carers Measure. I am publishing their report as an annex to this statement in order to help inform Assembly Members as the consideration of our proposed Measure proceeds.

I look forward to discussions with Assembly Members over the coming months as we take this proposed Measure through its scrutiny process.