

REGULATORY APPRAISAL

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, WALES

THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARDS (ESTABLISHMENT) (WALES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2006

Background

1. The Wanless Report (Wales) 2002 identified key areas for change and development in order to improve both efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare in Wales. Teaching Local Health Boards (tLHBs) are being developed to address these issues.
2. All Local Health Boards (LHBs) are expected to develop a learning culture and role within their organisation but the tLHB will bring specific additional capacity into their locality to support all health care professions and primary care teams in the healthcare community. They will develop an academic programme of learning, teaching, research and evaluation to be conducted in association with established academic institutions in Wales to encourage and provide high quality primary care services.
3. Through the utilisation of educational and research activities, the expectation is that a tLHB will be able to provide an alternative portfolio career option for GPs and other health care professionals. Such alternative arrangements are expected to assist the recruitment and retention of essential health care professionals in areas that are currently under-resourced.
4. An essential aim of a tLHB will be to develop posts that are both clinical and rooted in teaching, research or development. The primary aim must be to provide additional patient care through the recruitment of extra clinicians complemented with the development of learning, sharing of knowledge and collaboration in research.
5. A tLHB will though remain a statutory NHS body based upon the existing LHB model.

Purpose and intended effect of the measure

6. This Order amends the Local Health Boards (Establishment) (Wales) Order 2003 to change the names of Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly Local Health Boards to Teaching Local Health Boards (tLHBs). The National Health Service Act 1977 provides that a Local Health Board Order must specify the name of the Local Health Board. Therefore, it is necessary to amend the 2003 Order to change the names of the three Local Health Boards to reflect their teaching status.
7. A set of Directions (Directions to Caerphilly Local Health Board and Rhondda Cynon Taff Local Health Board 2006) are being made separately under Standing Order 29 to enable Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly LHBs to jointly exercise their functions as tLHBs.

Risk Assessment

8. If the Order is not made then Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly LHBs would be operating as teaching LHBs without the appropriate legislation being in place and the intended benefits of being tLHBs will not be realised.

Options

Option One – Do Nothing

9. If tLHBs are not implemented we will not achieve the intended benefits to health services in Wales that we believe tLHBs will bring.

Option Two – Make the Legislation

10. Although, all LHBs are expected to develop a learning culture and role within their organisation, implementing this legislation will mean that tLHBs will be able to bring specific additional capacity into their locality to support all health care professions and primary care teams in the healthcare community. They will be able to develop an academic programme of learning, teaching, research and evaluation to be conducted in association with established academic institutions in Wales to encourage and provide high quality primary care services.

Benefits

11. Through the utilisation of educational and research activities, the expectation is that a tLHB will be able to provide an alternative portfolio career option for GPs and other health care professionals. Such alternative arrangements are expected to assist the recruitment and retention of essential health care professionals in areas that are currently under-resourced.
12. An essential aim of a tLHB will be to develop posts that are both clinical and rooted in teaching, research or development. The primary aim must be to provide additional patient care through the recruitment of extra clinicians complemented with the development of learning, sharing of knowledge and collaboration in research.

Costs

13. The costs of tLHBs will be accommodated within the tLHBs budget line in the Education and Training Budget Expenditure Line in the Health and Social Care Main Expenditure Group. The tLHBs budget in 2005-06 is £250,000. The indicative budget for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is also £250,000.
14. There are no additional financial implications relating to this Order to the Assembly.

Consultation

With Stakeholders

15. No formal consultation was carried out on this Order. However, all LHBs were invited to submit expressions of interest for tLHB status. Five submissions were received and they were assessed over two stages. The first exercise was a paperboard exercise where a cross cutting panel was asked to assess each submission against the set criteria and make recommendations for future action.

16. The second stage included a panel, chaired by the Head of the Health and Social Services Department, which made the final recommendations regarding the next steps in Wales. The outcome of this panel was that the submission received from Powys LHB and the joint submission from Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly LHBs were successful.

With Subject Committee

17. This Order was notified to the Health and Social Services Committee, via the list of forthcoming legislation, on 5 October 2005 (HSS(2)10-05(p.5a), item no: HSS27(05)) and has remained on the list ever since. The Order was not identified for detailed scrutiny.

Review

18. The impact of this Order will be monitored as part of normal business. The LHBs will produce an annual plan with clear outcomes and timescales. Progress against these plans will then be reported to the Education and Training Division of the Health and Social Care Department.

19. Teaching LHB status for the three LHBs concerned will be formally reviewed at the end of three years.

Summary

20. This will amend the Local Health Boards (Establishment) (Wales) Order 2003 to change the names of Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly Local Health Boards to Teaching Local Health Boards to reflect their teaching status.