

## National Assembly For Wales

### Report by The Health and Social Services Committee on the The Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007

1. The Committee had identified these regulations for scrutiny and they were submitted to the Committee for the meeting on 7 February 2007. They were handled in accordance with the protocol for dealing with secondary legislation agreed by the Committee on 11 June 2003, whereby Members notify in advance any queries or amendments they wish to make to the Regulations.

2. Members did not propose any amendments, but there were five points of clarification to which the Minister responded.

**Jonathan Morgan AM:**

**i. As the Assembly already inspects Local Authority adoption services what will the new regulations achieve beyond that which is currently being done?**

The Minister said that the framework had been changed with new standards in place against which the Care Standards Inspectorate (CSIW) would assess the service.

**ii. What compliance issues and financial consequences have been assessed with regard to Regulation 15(1) which stipulates the requirement for local authorities to have a “sufficient number of suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons?”**

The Minister advised that the regulations aim to improve the quality of services and will provide the impetus for more staff to attain qualifications. Local authorities will have to justify their level of staffing to the Inspectorate.

**Jenny Randerson AM:**

**iii. With regard to Part 2 Managers. Paragraph 10 (2) (b) (i) of the Consultation Responses indicated difficulties in requiring managers to have NVQ level 4. What steps is the Welsh Assembly Government taking to ensure that training is provided to ensure that managers are enabled to achieve this qualification?**

The Minister responded that the period for achieving NVQ level 4 had been extended from two years to three. Financial provision had been made to improve training across social care, but returns indicated that there was variance across local authorities that was not easily explained. The statutory requirement removes the discretion to comply. CSIW would monitor future provision.

**iv. The Regulatory appraisal says that there will be significant extra work ensuing from these regulations and the financial implications do not assess potential costs other than to the Assembly. However, the Regulatory Impact Assessment indicates potential costs associated with the provision of medical advisors. What assessment has been done of the costs of this?**

The Minister informed the Committee that the requirement for health checks is not new and the role of the medical advisor would be unchanged..

**v. Regulatory Impact Assessment – Are there plans to ensure that CRB checks are done for the Adoption Panel Members?**

The Minister confirmed that this would be so.

4. The Committee was content with the regulations as drafted.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM  
Chair  
February 2007