Putting Patients First

Our plans will put money and power where it can make the most difference - in our local communities. That is why:

• There will be a Local Health Board in every area, building on our existing Local Health Groups. They will serve their own localities.
• These Local Health Boards will decide what services are needed for local people and make sure that these are provided. These will include family health, community health and hospital services.
• Local Health Boards will involve local doctors, nurses and other health professionals, representatives from the Council (including elected members), voluntary organisations and the public. A carer will sit on every Board.
• In the new system, local government, Local Health Boards and the voluntary sector will work together more closely, so that there is better co-ordination of our services, especially health and social services.
• NHS Trusts will continue to run hospitals and community services. They will work with Local Health Boards and other partners to meet local needs.
• Services which are too specialised to be dealt with locally will continue to be organised on an All Wales basis.
• The Welsh Assembly Government will provide leadership, direction and the money for the NHS in Wales. This will make sure that the best quality care is being delivered in all parts of Wales. The Assembly will set up offices in North, South East, Mid and West Wales, to make it easier for people to contact us.

These new arrangements will be introduced on 1 April 2003 when the existing 5 Health Authorities in Wales will be abolished.

Co-operation, not competition, is the Welsh way forward and the new system will make that happen, with patients and local communities playing their part in planning services for the future.

This is how we will make a reality of an NHS in Wales which puts our patients first.

Earlier this year I launched my Plan for improving health in Wales. An extra £1 billion is being spent in the NHS over the next three years. That money needs to go more quickly to patients. To achieve this, we are:

• abolishing five health authorities
• setting national standards for a fairer NHS across Wales
• making sure that we have health services that meet the needs of local people.

The new system will help make the NHS in Wales fairer, where health services are designed and delivered locally. Please use the contact details inside to get more information.

If you would like to know more phone: 029 2080 1032
visit: www.wales.gov.uk/healthplanonline
or e-mail: health.enquiries@wales.gsi.gov.uk