

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Caroline Crimp

Another year! Another Annual Report! After 45 years despite, or perhaps even because of, all the changes that have taken place in the National Health Service, this year's report shows that there is still a need for **AWCH** and the work which we continue to do.

Welsh Assembly Government

AWCH keeps up with NHS changes as they affect children, young people and their families, responding to the most relevant **consultation documents**, and attending **workshops** and other **events** concerning them. The most important document, finally published early in 2006, is the *National Service Framework for Children, Young People, and Maternity Services in Wales*. Setting quality standards for all services for Children, Young People and their families, it is generally a good document addressing many of the issues which have concerned **AWCH** over the years. It is, however, not specific on the issue of visiting costs, despite **AWCH** input into the consultation process; it merely says that information about travelling subsistence must be given to families. Not particularly helpful if you don't meet the criteria in the first place.

Hospital travel and visiting

Despite a favourable reception to our report *Parking at Hospital Sites* at its launch last year, further representation by both **Contact a Family** and **AWCH** to Health Minister Brian Gibbons has brought no satisfactory progress on the matter of hospital travel. **AWCH** continues to work with **Children & Young People's Forums and Partnerships** in an effort to bring in local initiatives. The continued financial help which **AWCH** gives to families brought to our attention can reach

only the tip of the iceberg.

Final publication of the *Children & Young People Specialist Services Standards*, due before the end of the year, will almost inevitably mean more centralisation of specialist services.

The changes proposed for acute hospital services in *Designed to Deliver* have raised opposition across South West Wales. **AWCH** fears the effect they will have on children's services. For example, a move of adult neurosurgery to Cardiff from Morriston will inevitably affect the remaining paediatric services in Morriston, and consequently, families who need to access them.

All in all the need for a Government initiative of support for families experiencing financial difficulty becomes more and more desperate, and remains a priority for **AWCH**.

AWCH Publicity

The **AWCH website** continues to have 'hits' bringing in some enquiries.

I found the **AWCH** computer very useful in designing our new **AWCH information leaflets**; we are grateful to Bryan Roberts, Ennis's husband, for his front-page design, and are very pleased with the printer's final interpretation of our efforts. Distribution to hospitals, CHC's, Local Health Boards, politicians, libraries and other useful outlets across Wales proceeds. (A copy of the leaflet is enclosed with this report).

AWCH liaison with other voluntary organisations

We have been collaborating with Martin Davies of **Contact**

a Family Wales on setting up a Child Health Network of likeminded organisations. The aim of the group is to keep email contact and support each other when possible. Martin has written a manifesto incorporating the major concerns of constituent bodies.

AWCH is liaising with **The Parent Network Neath Port Talbot** in carrying out a survey into children, young people & parents' experiences of local hospitals. We are extremely grateful to Development Officer Nicole James for the thought and hard work she is putting into this project. Hospital staff support the idea and thing that, as families will see it as more independent than official hospital surveys, it is more likely to mirror genuine feelings.

New from **Action for Sick Children:**

Consenting to Treatment for Children and Young People --

An explanatory information leaflet which also includes tips for health care staff.

A visit to children's outpatients and Coping with hospital --

videos for use with school-age children. Accompanying leaflets include notes for parents and teachers, and glossaries. Various other titles available.

Dental Playboxes familiarise children with a visit to the dentist, helping to allay anxiety. Popular in pre-school and primary settings **Action for Sick Children (Scotland)** has supplied them for some years. Their use has now been taken up in England.

Hospital News

AWCH representatives were pleased to be invited to the opening of the new **Child Assessment Unit at Singleton Hospital**. Here, after children are assessed they may be discharged, admitted immediately, or kept for a while as their

condition and/or the effect of any treatment, is monitored. As an alternative to automatically admitting children directly to a ward, this bright, child-friendly day unit makes for a less traumatic experience for the child, and makes better use of bed-space. It is a welcome additional facility for the care of children in **Singleton**. We were also pleased to be able to donate a bench to mark the occasion; it has been placed in an area just outside the unit for the use of visitors.

Lastly, but by no means least, my thanks as always to my fellow trustees/committee members who, despite various bouts of ill health, continue to perform their various roles. The long service of our Hon. Treasurer, Ennis Roberts, is particularly appreciated. And of course, as always, our grateful thanks to all those who continue to support **AWCH** in various ways.

PLAY IN HOSPITAL REPORT

**Gwent Community Children's
Nursing Team**

Carol Dance
Newport Borough Play Therapist

There are five community children's play therapists within the team (Carol, Jo, Liz, Julie and Angharad) and we cover Gwent. We work with children from birth to 18 years of age and their families, within a variety of settings. We perform play assessments in conjunction with the child, parent and carer and devise individual play plans for the children. Through play we stimulate the child to enhance develop-

ment, and provide support and information, working in partnership with the child and their parents.

Singleton Hospital

Ann Jones

We are looking forward to summer and being able to use our outside play area. With the doors open it becomes an extension to the playroom. It is a place where the children have a chance to let off steam and everybody is able to have a break and fresh air away from the hospital setting. We are grateful to **AWCH** and to the Watkins family for enabling us to have this wonderful facility.

The past year has been busy but rather uneventful. Our Christmas party had a circus theme with our friend Adam George (one of our regular POD entertainers) amazing us with magic tricks and teaching us how to do some plate spinning and juggling. The year was wonderfully finished off by a visit of the entire cast of the panto Aladdin.

Withybush Hospital

Jackie Broadhurst
Sandra Jones

Once again it hardly seems possible that another year has flown! This past year has been as busy, challenging and re-

warding as those recorded in previous **AWCH** reports.

Christmas, as usual, was very busy with numerous festive events and generous donations to Children's Services in Pembrokeshire. We were delighted to have 'hands on' support of Isobel Hall and her family during these 'Christmas events'. Isobel is the Patient Care Manager for Children's Services throughout the Trust.

In February Lesley Robertson-Steel joined the Trust as Senior Nurse for Paediatric Services. Lesley brings with her a wealth of experience and a fervent desire to meet the 'play needs' of children and young people during hospitalisation and illness.

Early in March we hosted the NAHPS meeting. The focus was provided by "The Jam Shop" who generated relaxation, communication, team building, musical therapy and fun through the use of "African drums". It was an enormous success, particularly enjoyed by Lesley, who is still getting used to our strange Welsh traditions! It is encouraging to see senior managers supporting play services and contributing in such positive ways.

Special report from Sandra Jones

2006 saw Jackie Broadbent become the first 'Play Specialist of the Year' for the Wales and South West region. We at Withybush are very proud of Jackie's achievements and she has been an inspiration to us all.

**Oakwood Ward,
Morrison Hospital**

Louise Evans
Play Specialist

We remain five play staff on Oakwood (Madeline Evans, Lisa Morgan, Lisa Richards, Lettisha Howells — all Nursery Nurses — and myself), although as we have now had bed reductions, play staff have been rotated to other paediatric areas on a rota basis, including the paediatric wards in Singleton and the continuing care team in the community.

Our Christmas party was another success. It was the first year we have held it off the hospital grounds (at the Barn, Morrison) and we were unsure how successful it would be. The venue proved to be ideal, the Swans attended and a good time was had by all, including the staff!! Our party was totally funded by a local businessman.

We have had various donations to the playroom and we have selected a variety of toys for general play and distraction. At present we do not have an on-going project but the play team strive to continue the good work supporting the children and their families throughout their hospital experience.

Nevill Hall Hospital

Paediatric Outpatients Department

Yvonne Dixon

2006– 7 has seen a proactive approach to the play-service in the Department. Working in this area, I have been able to extend the play/diversional therapy opportunities to children 0– 16 years visiting this safe, stimulating environment. Art

and craft activities are available at every session and children’s creations can be displayed, making the area child-friendly. Nursing staff have noticed a decline in complaints about waiting times.

The Paediatricians are prescribing “Play as Medicine too!”

I have delivered play sessions to children with emotional and psychological difficulties as part of the child’s assessment, and in Tuesday morning’s “baby clinic” I have been able to transfer the importance of baby play to many parents. I have also taken the opportunity to sign-post community initiatives such as Sure-Start, Flying Start baby Clubs, etc. Diversional therapy for blood tests has been very valued.

Paediatricians are very appreciative of the play in-put for children requiring medical assessment for Child Protection Referrals, and value the Play Specialists offering of appropriate, sensitive communication and activities to help diminish anxieties at this fearful time.

I continue to develop the Hospital Awareness Programmes in primary schools and this has now been extended to parent groups, and over the last year I have been privileged to be involved in the setting up of a Shared Care Protocol for young people with Eating Disorders.

Many parents have been thankful for a listening ear - this appears to be one of the vital skills of the Play Specialist whatever the setting!

Children’s Ward

Bev Trinder
Anna Richards

Play Specialists on the Children’s Ward are busy as always,

providing therapeutic play for children from birth to 16 years.

Play sessions for children with 'special needs' are becoming more prominent as are activities for preparing children for theatre.

We have continued providing distraction for the majority of procedures and have been very successful in the development of distraction techniques for children undergoing MRI scan without sedation.

**Dyfed Ward,
Morrison Hospital**

Karen Tucker

The play team consists of three Nursery Nurses and one Hospital Play Specialist, covering all areas within the Burns Centre where children are nursed, from 7am– 7pm, seven days a week. We have had a busy year, and now care for all children requiring plastic and reconstructive surgery alongside burns.

The Burns Centre is having a new £10 million outpatients department built over the next 18 months, with a dedicated paediatric area. Tempest (burns HDU) children's room is having a revamp and a new dedicated adolescent room is being developed.

The new revised school integration programme is up and running following publications in various journals.

"Pudsey bears" were sold for Children in Need and £200 was raised.

The Burns Club has undertaken many activities, beginning in May with our Annual Camp at Pendine, Pembrokeshire, with over 50 children attending. The children enjoyed abseiling, kayaking, caving, assault courses and sea activities. The Scarlets rugby team visited us and enjoyed a game of rugby with the children.

During September the club spent a day sailing and shooting with the Sea Cadets at Margam and in October the first ever World Jamboree was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. With funding from Corus and community groups, six children and three volunteers attended with children from England, Canada and South Africa. This was a life-changing experience for them. There were visits to an elephant sanctuary, lion park, Sun City and the Cradle of Humankind. Life-long friends were made by all.

The Christmas party was a great success with over 150 children and siblings attending. Thanks go to the League of Friends for the lovely selection boxes.

We went to see the Scarlets play and all the children went on to the pitch at half-time to meet the players and be introduced to the crowd.

Thirty children and volunteers went to Cardiff for a fun day of fishing organised by the Environment Agency.

The club has grown over the last 3 years with an increasing number of children wishing to attend. All events are funded by donations and fundraising events by our dedicated group of volunteers. A Spring Ball was held in the Towers Hotel, Swansea, and over £6000 was raised. We are looking forward to the Annual Camp in Pendine in May 2007. Over fifty children have been invited.

Photos of events can be seen at
www.welshdragonburnsclub.co.uk

**Royal Glamorgan Hospital
Llantrisant**

Julia Neale

Since starting here just over 2 years ago, I have carried on from Ann Hawkins. I have also been involved in setting up play for children attending hospital for dental extractions. They are seen on a children's ward, so I've worked hard with nursing and theatre staff to make the environment they come to more child-friendly by displaying the children's art work, providing toys and being there to alleviate any worries and fears they might have. There is more work needed to improve this area and hopefully, in the future this will happen. I have also started pre-admission visits for children coming in for ophthalmic operations.

There are lots more areas I'd like to cover but, as the saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day".

**Glangwili Hospital
Cilgerran Ward**

Kim Thomas

We are still as busy as ever on the Ward. We are three members of staff in the playroom—1 Hospital Play Specialist and 2 playleaders. Mari, the Play Specialist, is still visiting schools with her "Hospital To School Programmes". Hopefully, she is going to develop a DVD or CD to go with the

programme in the Summer.

Through a local benefactor's generosity, the play provision in our playroom is improving and he has given us a great deal of computerized equipment and the latest game consoles.

PLAY AMBULANCES

Clare Lamb

The number of Swansea schools who have had the Play Ambulances continues to grow, with several schools requesting the ambulance for another term. Since 2003 children in nursery and reception classes in nineteen different Swansea schools have benefited from the loan of the ambulances. This year in Waunarlwydd, Grange, Brynmill, Cila, Hafod and Cwmbwrla schools, special Hospital or Doctor's areas have been set up, where the ambulances, as well as being fun, help the children learn about going into hospital.

AWCH's updated colourful leaflets are available for children and their families and can be obtained via the contacts below.

Our Play Ambulances are now advertised to Swansea schools via e-mail organised by Rhodri Jones, Administration & Communications Manager, City and County of Swansea. Our thanks to him. A photograph of an ambulance is also on our Web Site: www.awchwales.org.uk

The Ambulances are suitable for both Reception and Nurse-aged children and all schools have found them a worthwhile addition to the school curriculum of "People who help us" and "Ourselves". The Ambulances are delivered and col-

lected with a £5 charge to cover costs.

For further information or to book an Ambulance for your school:



Clare Lamb 01792 205880
or e-mail: thelambs17@hotmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ennis Roberts

Once again, a very faithful and generous supporter has donated a fantastic £2500 towards our work, and we are also very grateful to two Swansea Trust Funds for their continued support with donations totalling £670.

We were very fortunate that the Swansea group 'Busy Bees' supported us again with a donation of £175, and Alan and Margaret Fabb came out of 'retirement' and held a trunkle-ment sale raising over £350 for us. We must also thank the family of the late Katie Piles for remembering us with a donation of almost £560 given in lieu of flowers.

Yet again, we have to thank our friend Sarah Isherwood for raising £425 for us as the Teddy Bear's Picnic she holds in Gnoll Park each year.

It is a good job we have such generous supporters, because this year has been a very expensive one for us. We gave a staggering £2880 to our local Travel and Emergency Funds and in grants to families referred to us by other agencies. This is more than double what we gave last year. In fact, in

one two-month period we spent £1350 on this alone. We have also given gifts totalling over £900 to hospitals.

However, as you will have read in other parts of this report, we have been able to start a programme of increased publicity in the hope of getting not only new membership, but also of raising awareness of our existence so that we can reach a wider audience and be able to take our work to parts of Wales we are not covering at the moment.

Thank you for your continued support, and if you will be kind enough to use the Gift Aid form enclosed with this report, your subscriptions and donations to us can be increased considerably.

We are most grateful to Mr. M. J. Beckett. CPFA(PT) AAT for auditing our accounts.

TRAVEL AND EMERGENCY FUNDS Nicole Taylor

AWCH helped families on 61 occasions over the last 12 months for travel or emergency payments. Families came from as far as Fishguard, Llandrindod and Newport in South Wales and Tywyn in North Wales.

In Singleton most of the help was given to the families with babies in the "Special Care Baby Unit" and in Morriston it was mainly needed on the burns unit. The age of the children was from 9 weeks premature birth to 16 years.

Families are advised of the fund by the staff on the wards, the Accident and Emergency unit and by parents' contacts

with the social work departments. The amount given depended on the cost of travel with £20-£30 being the average grant.

There are always circumstances which make time in hospital difficult. One family had triplets with an unknown length of stay. Another admission was of a five year old, one of four children in with an eight week stay and the father visiting regularly with the siblings on the bus. Another was the youngest of 10. All these families have benefited from **AWCH's** support as very few parents are working and most are on benefits and this year included an asylum seeker family.

Morrison and Singleton Hospitals expressed their thanks to **AWCH** for their support which they found invaluable.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT Clare Lamb

AWCH would like to thank everyone who has supported us during the year. We hope you will continue to support **AWCH** by renewing your membership, also by telling you friends about us and the work we do. This would greatly help our association and the children and their families we aim to help.

We have recently updated our information leaflet which has already been sent out to all Welsh Hospitals and Community Departments treating children. As we are only a small voluntary organisation we hope that this publicity will increase our membership and subscriptions and so help in the much needed work that **AWCH** is involved with.

The Welsh Assembly recognizes our importance and we are in regular correspondence with our Assembly Members.

Subscriptions stay at £7.50 for individual members or £10.00 for the whole family or group. If you are a taxpayer, we would be grateful if you would sign the enclosed Gift Aid form. This will enable **AWCH** to recover the tax you have paid, increasing our funds. Anyone who is a taxpayer is eligible.

ANNE WATKINS MEMORIAL STUDY DAY

Jan Williams

Our Anne Watkins Memorial Study Day in September was split into two sessions: young people and drug use in the morning and a craft session in the afternoon. Quite diverse but both very informative. The afternoon session, run by the Play Resource Centre, brought out member's creativity and there were some surprising revelations!

Editor's Note:

At the time of going to press, we have heard the sad news of the sudden death of Mr. G. P. Neilson, who kindly audited our accounts last year, and we extend to his family our deepest sympathy.

**ASSOCIATION for the WELFARE of
CHILDREN in HOSPITAL**

www.awchwales.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 222294
(affiliated to Action for Sick Children)

Executive Committee 2006 - 2007

Caroline Crimp MBE — Chairman
Ennis Roberts — Hon Treasurer
Judy Evans — Hon Secretary
Clare Lamb — Minute Secretary

Mary George — Jan Williams — Ann Jones

If you would like to join us the Subscription Rates are :-

Individual Membership	-	£7.50
Family/Group Membership	-	£10.00

Report edited and produced by
Ennis Roberts
20 Cae Bryn Avenue, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 9AT
Telephone: 01792 533917

Printed at Eastmoor Resource Centre,
St Barnabas Church, Hawthorn Avenue, Uplands, Swansea, SA2 OLP