

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

www.awchwales.org.uk

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

Executive Committee 2007 - 2008

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

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**Supporting Sick Children and
their Families in Wales**

Registered Charity No: 222294

ANNUAL REPORT 2007 / 2008

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Caroline Crimp

AWCH was first registered with *The Charity Commission* in September 1963. Since then **AWCH** in Wales, with **Action for Sick Children** in England and Scotland, has been active in the fight to bring about markedly changed conditions for children and young people who use the **NHS**, and their families.

This report aims to set out how the Executive Committee, as **AWCH** Trustees, complies with the public benefit requirement of the *Charities Act 2006*, i.e. that there is not unreasonably restricted identifiable benefit to the good of the general public, or a section thereof, and is appropriate to the aims of the organisation.

“The Charity object is to promote the welfare of sick children in Wales by working to improve child health services, in hospital, the community, and home.” (AWCH Revised Constitution, 5th June 1997).
AWCH aims to do this by:

Raising awareness of the needs of children and young people, and their families, who use the NHS in Wales

Responding to **Welsh Assembly** consultation documents and putting forward **AWCH** concerns for sick children and their families at consultation events, conferences and other meetings, and to relevant bodies ▪ Mailing **AWCH** leaflets, the Annual Report and

newsletters to relevant Welsh Government statutory bodies, and corresponding with **Welsh Assembly** Ministers ▪ Maintaining an **AWCH** website.

Providing information and support to children, young people and their parents/carers

Providing helpful information on the **AWCH** website ▪ Making **AWCH** literature available in **NHS** premises, and other outlets ▪ Lending two play-ambulances to Swansea Schools to supplement appropriate curriculum topics ▪ Administering a hospital *Travel & Emergency Fund* to help parents having financial difficulty in visiting their child in hospital. This is available, on referral by a health or local authority professional, to all families of 0-18 year-olds who might need it. It is non-discriminatory, and limited only by the finances available. The immediacy of the response, with a minimum of protocol involved, makes it a lifeline for parents in a crisis ▪ Donating occasional gifts in kind to children's **NHS** facilities in Wales ▪ Having no premises or staff overheads, **AWCH** is able to make almost all its income available to the charitable aims of the organisation; even legitimate expenses claimed by the Executive Committee being, in most cases, returned as donations.

Working with professionals, other voluntary organisations, parents, children and young people to achieve AWCH objectives

Keeping abreast of changes and communicating with

senior staff about **AWCH** concerns ▪ Supporting the training of hospital play-staff, mainly by helping with travel expenses—the extra time and expense occasioned by the closure of the Play Specialist training facility in Bristol has increased the difficulties for play-staff in Wales who wish to extend their experience and gain their certificates ▪ Endeavouring to keep in touch with voluntary organisations with like aims. In particular, working actively with **Contact a Family Wales** to progress our common aims, and with **The Parent Network** in Neath Port Talbot on a joint parent and child hospital survey—unfortunately, due to staff changes, on hold until the vacant post at **The Parent Network** has been filled.

Looking to the Future

As reports on later pages show, calls on the *AWCH Travel and Emergency Fund* have increased again this year, putting at risk our ability to respond as we have in the past. **AWCH** receives no grant and is entirely dependant on membership fees, donations and fundraising. As a priority, a sub-committee has already been set up to consider the situation.

Pressing for a government funded easy to access, simply administered travel and visiting costs scheme will continue to be a priority for **AWCH**. This is crucial to ensuring every child's right to have their parents/carers with them in hospital, without detriment to the rest of the family. We have already asked the newly appointed **Children's Commissioner for Wales** for a meeting at

which we might put forward our concerns about this breach of children's rights.

It is government policy to involve children and young people in consultations on planning issues, as well as in making informed decisions, according to their level of understanding, about their own treatment and care. As part of the '*Engaging with Children & Young People Initiative*', we will look at ways of getting in touch with children and young people's groups for an exchange of information, views and concerns.

We will continue to take every opportunity to raise awareness so that the needs of sick and disabled children and their families are recognised and addressed.

As chairman, my thanks go to those who keep **AWCH** going—members and supporters, and my fellow Trustees.

PLAY IN HOSPITAL REPORT

Glangwili Hospital
Cilgerran Ward

Mari Elen James
Cath Thomas
Kim Thomas

We are currently still three members of staff manning the playroom Monday-Friday. Mari does preparation work for children going to theatre and also helps to dis-

tract children during invasive procedures. Hopefully, in the Spring/Summer term Mari will be visiting schools with her “Hospital to School Programme”.

POD are continuously supporting us and giving us shows on the Ward to entertain the children. These shows are well-liked by all the children and staff!

Withybush Hospital

Jackie Broadhurst
Sandra Jones

We have been very busy with the new on-site MRI scanner. This is being used to its full potential, creating a high volume of preparation for children and young people undergoing this very noisy and scary procedure.

Work has already commenced on the new Emergency and Urgent Care Centre at Withybush. This will incorporate a separate waiting and treatment area for children, a facility we have only ever been able to dream about in the past.

Our Christmas party was deemed a great success with over 100 children being entertained by ‘Bongo Clive’. This year Father Christmas was transported to the party by the local Police. This worried some of our children as they thought Santa may have been a bit naughty. He was very quick to explain that he and his reindeer had been caught up in a traffic jam and the boys in blue had come to his rescue!

We have received many gifts and donations from very generous parents and members of the public. We are always grateful to everyone for their support. The donations enabled us to provide extras for children, young people and their families having to experience a period of hospitalisation.

We will soon be welcoming our new playleader—Nicola Thomas—who takes up her post on 31 March 2008. Having previously worked on the Children’s Ward as a healthcare assistant with a nursery nurse qualification, we are sure she will be a valued member of our play team and we look forward to extending our services even further throughout our Trust.

On 1st April 2008 Withybush will be part of a single Trust called Hywel Dda NHS Trust.

Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust

Sue Reardon

Another year has flown by for the Play Department at UHW/Llandough Hospital. We have been busy with the Knowledge and Skills Framework and the Agenda for Change.

Phase II of the New Children’s Hospital has been given the financial go-ahead; the build will take approximately 3 years.

We have added to our team in the past few months by employing a full-time play assistant to work in our Paediatric A+E Department, and next September one of our play assistants will be commencing the Hospital Play Specialist course at Southward College.

**Kenshole Children's Centre
North Glamorgan NHS Trust**

Julia Neale

I started at Kenshole Children's Centre in October 2007. My work here is completely different from anywhere else I have worked. It is a new challenge and I am learning lots of new things all the time.

My work consists of clinics, working with other therapies in groups and with individual patients. I also work with individuals that are referred to me by other members of the multi-disciplinary team.

As I have only been in this post for 6 months I haven't yet had the opportunity to implement anything new, but I will keep you updated.

Singleton Hospital

Ann Jones

Singleton has had another busy year. Since April we have been working week-ends so we now provide therapeutic play seven days a week.

The playteam were asked to help develop a Pre-Admission programme. Children who are having planned surgery are seen by the doctor and prepared for theatre prior to admission to hospital, making the admission to hospital less frightening and fearful.

In July, the Paediatric Diabetic team and I took a group of children to the Urdd Youth Camp in Llangranog. The aim of the weekend was to help educate the children about diabetes and about living with the condition, as well as making new friends and having great fun.

PLAY AMBULANCES

Clare Lamb

The **AWCH** Play Ambulances loan scheme continues to be a success. Since 2003, children in nursery and reception classes in nineteen different Swansea Schools have benefited from borrowing the ambulances and equipment. This year Parklands, Cadle and Dan-y-graig Primary Schools have borrowed the ambulances, all three schools making use of the scheme for a second time.

AWCH's colourful leaflets are now available for children and their families and can be obtained via the con-

tacts below.

Our Play Ambulances are advertised to Swansea Schools via e-mail, organised by Rhodri Jones, Administration & Communications Manager, City and County of Swansea. Our thanks to him. Details can be found on our Web Site:

www.awchwales.org.uk and in our Newsletter.

The ambulances are suitable for both Reception and Nursery 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 collected 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: the lambs17@hotmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ennis Roberts

We had a very busy and expensive year, spending more than we actually received, and therefore having to dip in to our reserves. It just shows the importance of having reserves.

Yet again we were fortunate to benefit from two Swansea Trusts to the sum of £640. We were also delighted to receive £200 from a Swansea short mat bowls club, and a very kind family near Newport gave us over £900 collected in memory of Janet Isobel Peirce.

We must also thank our good friend Sarah Isherwood who held her annual Teddy Bears' Picnic in Gnoll Park, giving us £300.

The demands on our Travel and Emergency Funds continue to increase and we have spent over £3400 on this alone in the year, and still we are only helping the tip of an enormous iceberg.

We have also continued with our publicity campaign and there are signs that our name is getting known over a wider area of Wales.

Having no office premises or staff, our costs are kept to an absolute minimum. In fact, of the officers' expenses of £230.36 almost £120 was returned as donations.

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

A copy of the full accounts may be obtained from me or is available on the **AWCH** website:

www.awchwales.org.uk

TRAVEL AND EMERGENCY FUNDS

Nicole Taylor

Both Singleton and Morriston Hospitals received grants from **AWCH** during this last year. These were used to support the parents in their travel to and from the hospitals or as emergency payments for food or other items which occur as a result of an emergency admission. Most of the families helped are, in fact, emergency admissions.

Families travelled from all over South Wales to the hospitals. Singleton's patients were from as far away as Aberystwyth, while Morriston's came from Pembroke Dock and Cardiff. One family was on holiday from France and needed support during their unforeseen emergency.

Grants vary according to the patient's family and the social work departments have noted that more money has been given towards transport this year, for which they are very grateful.

Once again, the age of the children helped has been from premature babies to teenagers, with a number of children being admitted to the Burns Unit. Sometimes children are transferred to other hospitals if more specialised nursing is required.

Parents are made aware of the available support through the health visitors, social workers or ward staff. Nearly

all the families given support are on benefits.

The Social Work departments at both hospitals wish to thank **AWCH** for their continued support which is very much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Clare Lamb

AWCH would like to thank everyone who has supported us during the year. Sadly this year we have lost several members through illness. We rely totally on voluntary contributions and fundraising so we hope you will continue to support **AWCH** by renewing your membership, also by telling your friends about us and the work we do. As you will have seen from the Treasurer's Report, we are getting more and more requests for financial help from families visiting their children in hospital, so your subscription is vital to us.

Our recently up-dated information leaflet has been sent out to all Welsh hospitals and Community Teams treating children. The Welsh Assembly recognises our importance and we are in regular correspondence with our Assembly members. You can find more information on our web site: www.awchwales.org.uk We are also pro-

ducing a Newsletter several times a year to keep our members up-to-date.

Subscriptions stay at £7.50 for individual members or £10.00 for the whole family or group. We would be grateful if you would complete the enclosed Gift Aid form. Then **AWCH** can recover the tax you have paid, thus increasing our funds. Anyone who is a taxpayer is eligible.

**ANNE WATKINS MEMORIAL
STUDY DAY**

Jan Williams

As you may have seen in **AWCH**'s recent Newsletter, in September NAPHS were lucky to have Dr. Bernie Whitaker from Australia, with us. He works with people who experience pain and teaches health professionals how to use Top-Down techniques to manage pain.

He taught us about a technique called Guided Imagery, which is used to help children who have to go through invasive procedures. Spread over two days, he covered both theory and practice. Recently some of the Play Specialists who had taken what they learned back to their hospitals and put it into practice, have confirmed that they have found it very useful.

Editor's Note:

AWCH would like to congratulate one of our Trustees, Mary George, on the successful completion of her Nursery training and wish her every success and happiness in her new career.

OBITUARY

MICHAEL V.H. WATKINS 1922 - 2007

Born in Swansea, the son of Jno. Oliver and Dorothy Watkins, Mike was educated at Parc Wern School and later at a Quaker boarding school. He then studied at the Welsh School of Architecture in Cardiff.

Two years into his studies, the Second World War broke out. At the time he was on holiday in South Africa and had to wait for a convoy of ships before he could return to the UK via Suez and the Med. He chose alternative National Service and served in the Friends Ambulance Unit in Greece for the duration of the war.

After completing his degree he worked for a year in London before emigrating to Canada. He was visiting a friend in Toronto when he met Anne. They returned to Britain and were married in Bradford-on-Avon and settled in Swansea. They had two sons, Jonathan and Jamie.

Mike soon became involved in the re-building of blitzed Swansea, designing many notable buildings including Sydney Heath's in Caer Street, Grove House and J. T. Morgan's, and Capel Gomer.

Mike was a very caring person, not only for his close and extended family, but also for many hundreds of people in the community. He loved sailing in Swansea Bay and was a valued member, and one-time Commodore, of Mumbles Yacht Club. He supported Anne in her many interests, including founding the first holiday play-schemes, the setting up of Sketty Residents Association and helping her with her stalwart work for **AWCH**. He was also a member of Swansea Quaker Meeting.

Even after Anne's death, Mike continued his support of **AWCH** in his characteristically quiet and unassuming way. He will be missed by so many people, not least by **AWCH**, to whom he was a most generous and well-loved benefactor.