

Press notice: 002

Release Date: 04/09/14

Time to consider radical reforms to Welsh social services funding says Welsh think tank report

With Welsh social services facing increasing financial pressures it is time to consider a more radical approach to funding social services in Wales says a new working paper. The authors of *The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill – A challenge unmet*, Dr Axel Kaehne (Chair GORWEL) and Helen Taylor (Cardiff University), set out an alternative vision for social care services in Wales.

The paper notes that the Social Services Bill (Wales), which has now become law, was one of the most important legislative projects of the Welsh Government since devolution in 1999. Throughout the consultation for the bill, however, there was significant concern by social care organisations in Wales about whether the bill would be bold enough to tackle the serious challenges of social care provision in Wales. This is a concern that the authors address head on. Dr Kaehne says:

“We would argue that in order to tackle the considerable challenges for social care in Wales, additional funding sources need to be found for care services by stimulating a social care insurance market in the UK. We think that establishing a social care insurance system would resonate with the people in Wales and their support for mutual assistance and solidarity.

A social care insurance would also retain an element of spreading risks across the population for those in need. As the UK government considers establishing a care insurance option, we believe the debate about social care provision in Wales needs to take account of these developments and articulate a bolder and more sustainable vision of care for the people in Wales.”

Dr Kaehne will also be expanding on the paper to a wider Welsh (pto)



Gorwel Press Notice

www.gorwel.co, email info@gorwel.co

...audience in the Wales Council for Voluntary Action's Carnegie Challenge Fund debate on 24th November in Cardiff.

Note for editors

Dr Kaehne is Chair of the Welsh think tank GORWEL and Senior Research Fellow at Edge Hill University.

Helen Taylor is PhD candidate at Cardiff University.

Dr Kaehne can be contacted for further comment on

Phone: 07957 737 156

Email: axel.kaehne@gmail.com

A full copy of the paper can be found under 'publications' on the Gorwel.co website (http://www.gorwel.co/wordpress/?page_id=1406) or a pdf copy can be sent to you by emailing info@gorwel.co