

The Year in Focus 2003

Working for Members



The Year in Focus 2003 is the annual update for members on the services provided and the work that has been carried out by the Welsh NHS Confederation on their behalf.

WELSH CONFEDERATION ATTAINS 100% MEMBERSHIP

The Welsh NHS Confederation is very pleased to say that as of April this year, all Local Health Boards and all NHS Trusts in Wales are now full members. We are delighted that all statutory NHS bodies in Wales have joined with us, to play a part in the Confederation both in Wales and at UK-wide level.

Our key organisational purpose is to influence decision-makers on behalf of members, and our ability to do this is strengthened enormously if we speak as a single, unified voice for the whole of the NHS in Wales.

We look forward to continuing this work on behalf of all our members, both old and new into 2004.

NEW CHAIR OF THE WELSH CONFEDERATION

In November 2003 Lloyd FitzHugh, Chair of North East Wales NHS Trust took over as Chair of the Welsh NHS Confederation. Lloyd was the singly supported nomination of the membership and was warmly welcomed at last year's conference.

A big thank you is owed to Lloyd's predecessor as Chair – D Hugh Thomas. Hugh worked tirelessly during his period as Chair and was instrumental in the progress the Confederation made as an organisation during this time.

WHAT WE DO:

- Influence on behalf of members
- Develop policy
- Brief members
- Build relationships with key partners
- Inform the media
- Ensure members get the full benefit of being part of the UK NHS Confederation
- Connect members with each other and individuals from non-NHS organisations
- Stage member events and conferences

New Welsh NHS Confederation Management Committee



The Welsh NHS Confederation management committee directs the Confederation's overall strategy and policy development, and meets every two months.

During 2003 the constitution and membership of the committee was revised to reflect the structural changes that took place in NHS Wales.

The new management committee as of April 2003 is comprised of:

NORTH WALES REGION

Lloyd FitzHugh (Chair)	Chair, North East Wales NHS Trust
Merion Hughes	Chair, Denbighshire LHB
Grace Lewis-Parry	Chief Executive, Gwynedd LHB
Hilary Stevens	Chair, Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust
Keith Thomson	Chief Executive, North West Wales NHS Trust

SOUTH WEST WALES REGION

Mary Griffiths	Chair, Ceredigion LHB
Hugh Thomas	Chair, Swansea NHS Trust
Andy Williams	Chief Executive, Powys Health Board
Paul Williams	Chief Executive, Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust

SOUTH EAST WALES REGION

Margaret Foster	Chief Executive, Pontypridd & Rhondda NHS Trust
Simon Jones	Chair, Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust
Judith Paget	Chief Executive, Caerphilly LHB
Dr Mike Robinson	Chair, Vale of Glamorgan LHB

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Roy Norris	Chair, All Wales Ambulance NHS Trust
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A sincere vote of thanks is also due to the following members of the Management Committee whose term of office expired in March this year for all of their hard work and dedication over the preceding years:

David Hands	Deniss Jesopp
Fiona Peel	Gren Kershaw
David Durham	Mark Lord

RICHARD THOMAS RETIREMENT

Richard Thomas, the current Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation, is to retire at the end of March 2004, after 38 years in the NHS in Wales and 4 years as Director of the Confederation.

As Director, Richard has been instrumental in developing the role, capacity and profile of the Welsh NHS Confederation and we wish him all the very best for a long and happy retirement.

WELCOME TO THE NEW DIRECTOR

The Welsh NHS Confederation is pleased to announce that Mike Ponton, currently Director of Health Services Policy and Development for the Welsh Assembly Government, has been appointed as Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation to succeed Richard Thomas.

Mike, who takes up his post early in February 2004, is an experienced NHS manager and has held a number of senior and top management appointments in Wales, before taking up a senior Civil Service appointment in the former Welsh Office and subsequently the Welsh Assembly.

We look forward to welcoming Mike to the NHS Confederation and wish him every success.

NEW MEMBER SERVICES IN 2004

In 2004 we will be announcing several new services to members on top of those outlined in this document.

These new services will include increased support for NEDs and NOMS and an extension of our influencing programme.



Services & benefits to members in 2003



1 INFLUENCING

Influencing is at the heart of our day-to-day work. All the work we do on behalf of our members is aimed at influencing decision-makers and partner organisations.

- Raised members' concerns directly with top decision-makers, including the Health Minister, Deputy Minister, NHS Director and Assembly health advisors. One such concern was the lack of linkage between various WAG health strategies. To highlight this concern we developed the 'Joining the Jigsaw' theme that we will take through to our conference.
- Participated in a series of meetings with partner organisations – including the WPGA, BMA and RCN to help take forward areas of common concern.
- Surveyed our members on their opinions of the Wanless review of Health and Social Care in advance of a full-scale campaign to influence the Welsh Assembly Government.
- Worked closely with WAG, Whitehall and UK colleagues to ensure that Welsh members were fully represented in discussions on the GMS contract at UK wide level.
- Presented written evidence on the new Townsend resource allocation formula directly to the National Assembly.
- Gave written evidence to the Parliamentary Welsh Affairs Committee on the NHS Wales Bill and to the National Assembly on the 'Informing Healthcare' strategy.
- Gave oral evidence to the Health & Social Services committee of the National Assembly on the implications of the Carlile & Kennedy reports.
- Obtained agreement with the Director of NHS Wales that more emphasis and funding are essential for the induction and development programme for Chairs, NEDS and non - officer members. A working party has been established under the auspices of the Welsh NHS Confederation to plan and develop future training programmes.
- Organised the 2003 management awards and continued our ongoing campaign to underline the importance of management in the NHS in Wales.
- Participated in 'Manifesto day' in the National Assembly, where we put forward our manifesto ideas for health direct to ministers and assembly members in advance of the elections.
- Worked closely with WAG on the need for improvements in information and communication technology within NHS Wales.
- Membership on the management side of the Welsh Consultant contract negotiations.
- Active membership during 2003 of the following:-
 - > Welsh Rural Affairs Committee
 - > Continuing Professional Development implementation project board

2 POLICY

Our policy work aims to help set the health agenda in Wales, as well as respond to it. Our work, both pro-active and reactive, in the policy arena, enables us to influence WAG on behalf of members.

- Developed a health priorities paper for the incoming Welsh Assembly Government based upon a survey of our membership.
- Responded to WAG consultation on 'Informing Healthcare' and published a policy paper called 'Information Matters' setting out our vision for Information & IT, which was drawn on by Health Minister Jane Hutt and Shadow Health Minister Dr Dai Lloyd.
- Published our policy document entitled 'management matters' that strongly set out the case for increased investment in management in NHS Wales.
- Worked closely with the National Assembly to help develop a strategy to alleviate the burden of bureaucracy on NHS organisations in Wales.
- Responded to the consultation document on the Wanless Review of Health and Social Care in Wales.
- Produced a briefing for Assembly Members on the GMS contract that was heavily referenced during a plenary debate on the subject.
- Worked closely with National Assembly on developing an implementation strategy for the GMS contract in Wales.
- Developed our links with Dr Scott Greer & researchers looking at devolution and health policy across the UK at University College London Constitution Unit.
- Improved the distribution of UK policy publications to members in Wales.
- Worked closely with our UK colleagues through a series of Celtic workshops.
- Took the lead role on several UK-wide policy issues such as leadership in the NHS.



Services & benefits to members in 2003



3 EVENTS

Events provide members with the opportunity to network with senior figures from across the entire NHS family in Wales, connect with senior NHS people from the rest of the UK, and hear high quality speakers from a range of backgrounds and countries.

- The Welsh Confederation Annual Conference, 'Connecting 2002', staged at the Hilton Hotel Cardiff, was the biggest Welsh annual conference to date. The conference attracted over 200 delegates and a wide range of top quality speakers from across the UK, Europe and Australia.
- Half-day conferences in North and South Wales on the new GMS contract framework for members to feed in their views.
- An event on the implications of the new GMS contract, with Mike Farrar, chair of the core negotiating team, as the key speaker.
- Held first Ideas Forum that brought together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss key health issues.
- A reception for members, politicians and decision-makers from the Assembly, and other representatives from public bodies and partner organisations, aimed at raising the profile of the Confederation.
- We are currently leading and organising with the National Assembly the launch of Informing Healthcare, the WAG strategy for the future of information and IT in NHS Wales.
- Co-organised and developed a whole strand on 'Learning Across Boundaries' at the UK Confederation conference in Glasgow.
- Arranged for speakers from Wales for UK-wide events.
- Held an event with a specific focus on NEDs around the role and function of boards.

4 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Media work is a service we provide to members to try and ensure that NHS management in Wales is portrayed fairly and accurately by TV, radio and newspapers. Our communications work attempts to ensure that members are fully apprised of all the work we undertake on their behalf.

- The Director appeared live on HTV Wales evening news top story to defend the salary levels of NHS Chief Executives in Wales.
- Participated in a live BBC television debate, which included the Minister for Health & Social Services.
- Regular press releases to the media in Wales on a range of health issues.
- Contributed to several feature articles in the Western Mail on issues such as the Informing Healthcare strategy and service redesign in Wales.
- Numerous letters to Western Mail rebutting management bashing articles.
- A UK-wide briefing on the new structural arrangements for NHS Wales.
- Contributed to several feature articles in the Health Service Journal and other professional publications on:
 - > Priorities for new government
 - > Review of Health and Social Care
 - > NHS Wales restructuring
- Produced monthly editions of bulletin - our publication to update members on the work being carried out by the Welsh NHS Confederation on their behalf.
- A UK-wide briefing on the Townsend resource allocation formula and its likely operation and implications.
- Ensured the speedy distribution of relevant GMS contract papers, including Natpact briefings, produced in London.

NEW OFFICES

In September the Welsh NHS Confederation moved its office to Cardiff Bay, near the National Assembly for Wales and other all-Wales health organisations and public bodies. Our new contact details are as follows:

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