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Member's Update Issue 1 8 March 2002

Welcome to the first issue of Bulletin, a new publication from the Welsh NHS Confederation.

Bulletin gives you a regular update on our recent and current work on behalf of members, including policy, influencing and media activity. Bulletin will be sent out regularly to all members via e-mail. It will complement Interchange Alert, published by our London office, which gives an overview of work carried out by the Confederation at UK-wide level. It will also be accompanied by Forum, another new publication from the Welsh NHS Confederation, which will bring together new thinking on key issues affecting the NHS. If you have any comments on Bulletin, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Primary Care

We continue to take forward the views we outlined in our response to the Primary Care Strategy (see www.nhsconfed.org/wales/policies for a copy). We welcomed the commitment to boosting primary care and argued that the primary care team should be at the heart of the corporate NHS family in Wales. Breaking down the boundaries between secondary and primary care and prioritising investment in IT are also essential. Our points were taken up by Ann Jones AM and Lynne Neagle AM in a plenary debate on primary care in the Assembly. Primary care will be one of the themes covered in our ideas forums (see below) and the focus of a one day conference.

Townsend review of resource allocation

Our response to the consultation paper welcomed the principle of basing allocations on health need, but raised some concerns about the data being used, how funding will flow, and how regionalised services and SHSCW will be affected. We will be reiterating these points in the lead-up to the main debate on Townsend.

NHS Wales Plan

Members have expressed concerns about delays in the implementation of the Plan, and about the uncertainty this causes. They have also underlined the importance of the confederation playing a leading role on their behalf in the implementation process. We are raising these with key civil servants

at the Assembly and we are considering holding an event once details of the implementation process are known.

Partnership Working

Richard Thomas and Hugh Thomas met with WLGA Director Sandy Blair and Head of Public Affairs Lynda Brandesbury to discuss ways in which our two organisations, which both have an all-Wales remit, could productively work together. It has been agreed that we will cooperate on policy areas of shared interest. We will be developing links with our local government partners over the coming months and plan to host a joint event with the WLGA later in the year on partnership working. Kevin Sullivan represented the Confederation at the Wales Council for Voluntary Action forum – another key sector where we are developing closer links.

NHS Day

Confed secures prime-time TV coverage for good stories about NHS

We worked very closely with the BBC on putting together programmes for NHS Day in early February. This was a golden opportunity to get much-needed positive coverage for member organisations. For *NHS Heroes* we devised and co-ordinated a nomination and selection process, linking with patient groups and BMA, RCN, PAM and Assembly colleagues. The shortlist of 5 nominees had their work profiled on *BBC Wales Today*, and the Welsh final was broadcast live on BBC1 Wales on 18 February, with Jane Hutt meeting the candidates.



Congratulations to the winner, Anwen Davies, a cancer nurse from Swansea NHS Trust. The programme was so successful that we are now working with the BBC on making this an annual event. We also contributed to a discussion on health on BBC Wales' *Exchange* Programme, with Huw Edwards and Jane Hutt.

Ideas Forums soon to be launched by Confed – watch this space

These are a new way of involving members in shaping leading-edge thinking in four key areas:

- primary care
- acute care
- partnerships
- mental health

The forums will be regular and accessible to all members, but also open to external experts, academics and key decision-makers in the respective fields. The approach will be fluid and innovative and the focus will be on stimulating new and radical ideas. We believe that they will be a real benefit to members, providing a climate where they can freely exchange views and ideas about major issues facing the NHS. The outcomes from the forums will be shared with all members and will help inform Confederation policy development. Details to follow soon.

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Chance for LHGs to find out about Confed over dinner

We are hosting two dinners for LHGs to listen to their needs and to suggest ways in which we can ensure that the Confederation is responding to

those needs and able to provide a unified voice for LHG members, especially in the critical period between now and 2003. The dinners, sponsored by BT, will take place at The Vale Hotel, Hensol on 20 March and at St. Asaph on 26 March

Welcome to new Confed chief exec at successful UK-wide workshop

On 31 Jan - 1 Feb we hosted Confed delegates from across the UK at the second UK-wide workshop. The focus was on sharing learning across boundaries and on developing the Confed as a UK-wide organisation. We were particularly pleased to welcome Dr Gill Morgan, new chief executive of the UK Confederation, who attended the workshop on her very first day in post. A report on the workshop will be published soon. The next one will be hosted by the Confederation in Northern Ireland.

Influencing on members' behalf

- **11 March** Jonathan Davies and Kevin Sullivan to meet with BMA, RCN and Chartered Society of Physiotherapists to discuss strengthening links and communication.
- **18 March** Richard Thomas to meet with NHS Director Ann Lloyd to discuss Confederation role post-2003 and progress on NHS Plan implementation.
- **21-22 March** Jonathan Davies to represent Confederation at Welsh Labour Party conference in Llandudno, including fringe debates on health.

Coming up at the Assembly

- **Thursday 7 March:** Debate on the Equal Pay Campaign
- **Tuesday 12 March:** Debate on NHS Estates
- **Thursday 14 March:** Debate on report on Adolescent Health 1986 – 2000
Debate on the Review of the Public Health function
- **Thursday 14 March:** Debate on the Final NHS Resource Allocations Review Report