



# bulletin

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*Bulletin* is a regular update for members on the work being carried out by the Welsh NHS Confederation on their behalf. It complements *Interchange Alert*, published by our London office, which gives members an overview of the Confederation's work at UK-wide level. If you have any queries about either publication, please contact [kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk).

## **Sell-out Confed conference brings together Welsh health community**

220 delegates from all parts of the health community are gathered in Cardiff to attend "The Welsh Connection 2002 - management learning across boundaries." The event is the annual conference of the Welsh NHS Confederation and looks set to be the biggest and best one yet. In keeping with the theme of "learning across boundaries," speakers and delegates are drawn from within and beyond Wales and from the statutory, voluntary and commercial sectors. Speaking on the eve of the conference, Welsh NHS Confederation Director Richard Thomas said: "We are delighted to be welcoming so many members and partners to this year's conference. We are sure that delegates will find the programme stimulating and enjoyable. The theme of 'connecting' is becoming an increasingly important part of the Confederation's work right across the UK. Here in Wales, events like *The Welsh Connection* link together our members from all parts of the NHS, which is crucial as we develop our role as a strong, independent and united voice on behalf of all our members."

## **Chairmanship election - thanks to Hugh Thomas, welcome to Lloyd Fitzhugh**

The AGM at this year's conference sees us bid farewell to our current chairman D Hugh Thomas, whose term of office is coming to an end, and extend a warm welcome to his successor Lloyd Fitzhugh. Director Richard Thomas said: "Hugh has given an enormous amount of time and energy to the Welsh Confederation during his term of office.

*At a time when the Confederation has been undergoing some significant changes, his contribution has been extremely important and his commitment to the Confed second to none. On behalf of the Confederation I would like to express our sincere thanks to Hugh and wish him every success in the future."* The new chairman of the Welsh Confederation, Lloyd Fitzhugh, is currently chairman of North-East Wales NHS Trust and was previously chair of Clwydian Community Care NHS Trust. Hailing from Wrexham, Lloyd is deputy lieutenant for Clwyd. He has also been actively involved with the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society for many years and was himself a farmer. Richard Thomas continued: "We are very pleased to welcome Lloyd as the new chairman of the Confederation. With his background as chair in North-East Wales, Lloyd brings wide-ranging experience and expertise to the post. I look forward to working closely with him to steer the Confederation through the changes ahead and to continue delivering services to members from all parts of the NHS and all parts of Wales."

## **Other AGM news:**

Proposed new constitution will:

- allow equal LHB representation on Confederation management committee
- highlight the fact that all income generated in Wales will be used to strengthen the Welsh Confederation, subject to trustees' approval.



## **Health spokespeople from all four parties join Confed Chairman and members at reception**

The senior health figures from all four main parties in Wales will join representatives from Assembly-sponsored public bodies at the reception being hosted on Wednesday evening by Welsh NHS Confederation chairman Hugh Thomas. The reception is organised in collaboration with BT. Amongst the expected guests are Jane Hutt, Minister for Health and Social Services, Dr Dai Lloyd, Shadow Health Spokesperson, Kirsty Williams, chair of the Assembly's Health and Social Services Committee, and David Melding, Conservative spokesman on health issues. Director Richard Thomas said: "We are very pleased that all four of the key health figures from across the political spectrum in Wales are taking time from their busy schedules to join us. All of us involved with the health agenda want to deliver the best possible service for Welsh patients, and occasions like the reception are a good opportunity to discuss key issues informally. We are very grateful to BT for supporting the reception, and we look forward to building a good relationship with them as partners in the future."

## **Rhodri Morgan and Jane Hutt to address delegates**

The Welsh NHS Confederation is very pleased to welcome First Minister Rhodri Morgan and Health and Social Services Minister Jane Hutt to this year's conference. Mr Morgan will be speaking to delegates during the annual conference dinner on Thursday evening, the first time that a First Minister has attended the Welsh Confederation conference. Jane Hutt will be giving the keynote speech to the conference on Thursday afternoon.

## **Awards show how investment in management is an investment in patient care**

The conference dinner on Thursday will see the climax of the 2002 Welsh NHS Confederation management award competition. The award, organised in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline, aims to recognise excellence in management in NHS Wales, and underline its importance in delivering benefits to patients. The 30 entries we received from across Wales and from all parts of the NHS were assessed by a panel of 5 expert judges. The winners will be announced after the conference dinner, and a representative from the winning team will be presented with the award by First Minister Rhodri Morgan and managing director of GlaxoSmithKline UK Eddie Gray.

## **Why management matters - Confed sets out case in new policy paper**

The Welsh Confederation is launching a policy paper setting out why good management plays a key role in improving patient care. The paper, entitled 'Management Matters,' supports the Prime Minister's view that "creative and effective management is vital if we are to modernise the health service." It tackles some of the myths surrounding management in the NHS and gives examples of innovations led by management which are already making a difference to patients in Wales. Copies are available at the conference and will also be available on our website [www.nhsconfed.org/wales](http://www.nhsconfed.org/wales)

## **Ideas Forum Extranet Site - JOIN NOW**

As part of the Ideas Forums process the Welsh NHS Confederation has developed a secure website/extranet for people who wish to participate in the process. Features of this site include: -

- An online Forum for discussing topics and ideas
- A secure e-mail system
- Access to Welsh NHS Confederation publications online
- An online diary
- Links to the BBC News - health page
- A selection of links to other useful websites
- Up to date information about the confederation

If you would like to join this online IFs community you will need a user name and password. To receive these please e-mail: [Jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk) giving the name or names of the people you want to join and your particular area of interest.

## **Assembly to set up training for NEDs**

The Confederation has been in discussion with the National Assembly for some time about the arrangements for training non-executive directors (NEDs), to ensure that they get the support they need in their vital role. We are pleased to announce that there will be an induction and training event on 28-29 November, run by the Centre for Health Leadership. It will be aimed at new NEDs and at providing further training for existing NEDs. For information contact [grant.evans@chl.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:grant.evans@chl.wales.nhs.uk) (tel 01656 753662).

## **Information and IT - Confed prepares to respond**

The Assembly's information and IT plan, Informing Healthcare, is now out for consultation. The Confederation is keen to use this opportunity to underline the importance of the information and IT agenda. If you have any views on the issues we should be raising, we would be very pleased to hear from you: [jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk)