



bulletin

Issue 13 3 February 2003

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.

Hart and Wanless to review health resources and reform

Finance Minister Edwina Hart has launched a far-reaching review of health and social care in Wales. The review will be advised by Derek Wanless, who recently chaired the Chancellor's review of healthcare resources at UK-wide level. The review is to look at "*how resources for health and social care in Wales can be translated into reform and improved performance, taking the Wanless Review as its starting point and taking into account the additional resources for health and the new NHS Wales structure.*" We have been invited to contribute to the review and we are already consulting members to help shape our response. Director Richard Thomas said: "*This is a very important review, and we will be ensuring that members' views on issues relating to resources, reform and performance are strongly represented.*" If you have any comments you would like to feed into our response, please contact kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk

Information and IT improving services for patients

We recently submitted our response to Informing Healthcare and we will be continuing our activity in this area over the coming weeks. Our key message is that investment in information and IT is an investment in patient care. We are currently gathering evidence from member organisations to support this point. If you know of cases from your organisation where innovation and investment in the use of information has brought a clear benefit to patient care we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk

GMS Contract roadshows 3rd and 4th March

The new GMS contract is due to be published on 21 February. To ensure that members in Wales are given as much information as possible on this very important development, we are organising two roadshows, in conjunction with the NHS Wales Restructuring Programme at the National Assembly:

- **3 March** (morning) - Village Hotel, Junction 34 M4
- **4 March** (morning) - North Wales, St George's Hotel, Llandudno

The main speakers will be Eleri de Gilbert, who is one of the core Confederation team negotiating the contract, and Bob Hudson, who is chairing the National Assembly's implementation board. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues. The event is open to all current member organisations of the Welsh NHS Confederation and to representatives from the new Local Health Boards. There is no charge for this event. Full details will be sent out in the next few days. To book please contact info@confed.wales.nhs.uk

Links with Welsh MPs

We are currently developing closer links with Welsh MPs. Several MPs have expressed an interest in liaising with us and we will be using the opportunity to keep them informed on some of the issues facing our members. If there are any issues which you would like us to draw to the attention of MPs, please contact jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk



Gill Morgan and Richard Thomas visiting members in North Wales

Chief executive Gill Morgan and Director Richard Thomas will be in North Wales on 6 and 7 February, visiting Trust and Local Health Board representatives in different locations across the region. The aim is to listen to members' concerns to help identify ways in which the Confederation is better able to support them in their work. A report on the visit will be featured in a future issue of Bulletin.

Conference dates for your diary:

- **25-27 June, Connecting**

UK Confederation annual conference, Glasgow Conference Centre. Booking forms are now available and can be downloaded from

www.nhsconfed.org/connecting

- **25 June, Celtic dinner**

This will take place in the Glasgow Piping Centre and is being organised by the Scottish NHS Confederation.

The cost is £45.00. Welsh members can reserve their places by contacting

sandra.cummings@confed.wales.nhs.uk

- **13-14 November, The Welsh Connection 2003**

Welsh NHS Confederation annual conference, Hilton Hotel, Cardiff. Further details will be available soon. In the meantime, please contact us to register your interest -

info@confed.wales.nhs.uk

“We can help ensure that LHBs' views on key issues are heard by key decision-makers in Wales and at Westminster”

Growing number of LHBs set to join the Confed

As they continue their preparations for 1 April, LHBs from across Wales have already indicated that they intend to join the Confederation as full members. Director Richard Thomas said: *“We have been in contact with LHB chairs and chief executives over the last few months, keeping them briefed on the GMS contract for example. We are very encouraged that so many of them from different parts of the country have already indicated their intention to join the Confederation. As well as providing them with support in their day-to-day work, we can help ensure that their views on key issues are heard by the key decision-makers, in Wales and Westminster, and provide a strong and united voice for NHS organisations from all parts of the service, and all parts of the country. I would encourage any LHBs who wish to find out more about the Confederation to contact me direct on 01656 753028.”*

NEDs importance recognised

The National Assembly has just announced a new pay scale for chairs of trusts and local health boards. The new scale brings a significant increase over the next three years, and helps to bring remuneration into line with the high levels of responsibility on the shoulders of NEDs in the NHS. The NHS Confederation has consistently argued that the key role played by non-executive directors is not sufficiently recognised. In our response to the consultation on remuneration we argued that although NEDs in the NHS had seen significant increases in their workload and responsibility, their pay had fallen in real terms. We also argued for a single consistent scale for all NEDs across Wales (see our response on www.nhsconfed.org/wales/policies). Director Richard Thomas said: *“we are very pleased that the Assembly has taken this step. Chairs of NHS bodies are extremely important and responsible posts, and it is right that they are given due recognition and reward. A fairer and more consistent pay scale is also essential if we are to continue attracting the best people to these posts.”*