



# bulletin

Issue 15 14 April 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](mailto:kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk).

## **Carlile and Kennedy reports – evidence to Health and Social Services Committee**

On 26 March, we attended the National Assembly Health and Social Services committee to give a front-line perspective on implementation of the Carlile and Kennedy reports. Our representatives were chairman of the Welsh NHS Confederation and of north-east Wales trust Lloyd FitzHugh, and directors of nursing Val Doyle, also from north-east Wales trust, and Sue Gregory, from Bro Morgannwg trust. Drawing on their first-hand experience, they were able to report significant progress in implementing many of the key recommendations of Kennedy and Carlile within their organisations. Both directors of nursing made it clear, however, that full implementation of the reports required significant extra funding. Director Richard Thomas said:

*"Our members strongly support the emphasis in these and other reports on improving the quality and safety of care. Investing in quality and safety clearly brings real benefits to patients. But delivering these benefits does require substantial resources". He added: "On critical issues like this, it is essential that politicians hear the view from the service directly, which is why we were pleased to accept the committee's invitation. Giving evidence in such a high-profile political forum is no easy task, and we are extremely grateful to Lloyd, Val and Sue for responding to the challenge and for the very effective way in which they answered all the committee's questions".*

## **Richard Commission on powers of Assembly**

We have been invited to give evidence to the Richard Commission, which is looking at whether the powers of the Assembly should be extended. The Commission have told us that they are very keen to hear the views of health organisations. Details of the Commission's work can be found at [www.wales.gov.uk/subirichard](http://www.wales.gov.uk/subirichard). If you have any comments which you would like to feed into our evidence, please contact Jonathan Davies, policy manager, on 01656 753647 ([jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk))

## **Welcome to LHBs**

On 1 April we issued a press release which underlined that LHBs had "a vital role to play" and calling for them to be given the tools they need to do the job, especially structural stability and sustained support and investment. We will continue to make these points in our influencing work with decision-makers. Over the next few weeks we will also be releasing details of the benefits we plan to provide for members. Director Richard Thomas said:

*"We are already welcoming a number of LHBs into membership, and we are in discussions with many others. In Wales and across the UK, primary care organisations are becoming an increasingly important voice within the Confederation – for example, around 90% of PCTs in England are in membership. Across the UK we already have a strong team in place with the expertise and the contacts to ensure that the voice of LHB members is heard, whether in Cardiff Bay or Westminster. If you have any questions about our work or about membership I would be very happy to discuss this with you, so please contact me direct on 01656 753028"*

## **Membership of new management committee**

We are currently seeking nominations for the new management committee through the chairs and chief executives of trusts and LHBs within the three regions. The committee is being reconstituted to reflect the changes to the structure of NHS Wales.

Subject to the majority of Local Health Boards joining the Welsh NHS Confederation, the new committee will be made up of six trust and six LHB representatives, four from each of the three regions. Director Richard Thomas said:

*"It is right that LHBs have an equal voice at the heart of the Confederation, and we look forward to welcoming trust and new LHB representatives on to the new committee."*



## **GMS update**

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Work continues on some of the areas of concern identified when the contract was released. As soon as we have more information on progress we will contact members.

## **GMS - Connecting members to the support they need:**

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The Confederation at UK-wide level is providing a support network where primary care professionals will be able to get support and resources to help them implement the new GMS contract. As this network is funded by NatPact, an agency of the Department of Health, it is geared towards England. But as the Confederation has a UK-wide remit, and many of the issues are similar in Wales, we are keen to ensure that Welsh members are also able to access the network. If you are a member of the Confederation and would like to be added to this network, please contact:

Clare Woodford on 0207 959 7249  
([clare.woodford@nhsconfed.org](mailto:clare.woodford@nhsconfed.org))  
or Kevin Sullivan on 01656 753644  
([kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk))

## **Congratulations to new and re-appointed trust chairs**

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Several new appointments and re-appointments for chairs of NHS trusts have been recently made by the National Assembly. Our congratulations go to the following who have been reappointed: Lloyd FitzHugh, chairman of the Welsh NHS Confederation, re-appointed in north-east Wales NHS trust; Hefin Davies (north-west Wales), Eleri Ebenezer (Ceredigion & Mid-Wales), Russell Hopkins (Bro Morgannwg). Welcome and congratulations to the following new appointments:

Simon Jones (Cardiff and Vale), and  
Dr Brian Willott (Gwent).

## **Connecting 2003 – strong Welsh presence expected in Glasgow**

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Places are going fast for the NHS Confederation UK conference, which takes place in Glasgow on 25-27 June. The conference is expected to bring together almost 2000 delegates from all parts of the health sector across the UK. A key theme in this year's programme is connecting members to the UK-wide picture, and sharing

learning across borders. As an example of this, we are very pleased to confirm that Wales' Children's Commissioner, Peter Clarke, will be taking part in the flagship plenary session on children's services. Other speakers from Wales will include Andy Williams, chief executive of Powys Local Health Board, Bob Hudson, chairman of the GMS implementation project, and Professor Gareth Williams of Cardiff University. Welsh members have traditionally made a very strong showing at the UK conference and this year looks set to be no exception. The conference is open to all, with discounted rates for members. For further details go to [www.nhsconfed.org/connecting](http://www.nhsconfed.org/connecting).

## **Celtic dinner – 25 June**

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The Celtic dinner is one of the highlights of the conference and has always been strongly supported by Welsh members. This year's event, organised by the Scottish NHS Confederation, takes place in the Piping Centre in Glasgow on 25 June. For details contact Sandra Cummings on 01656 753028 ([sandra.cummings@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:sandra.cummings@confed.wales.nhs.uk))

## **Welsh Connection 2003, Welsh NHS Confederation annual conference**

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Hilton Hotel, Cardiff, 13-14 November

Booking forms and further details will be available soon. In the meantime why not register your interest with us

[info@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:info@confed.wales.nhs.uk)

## **Welcome to new members**

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We are very pleased to welcome Cardiff, Caerphilly and Gwynedd LHBs into membership of the Welsh NHS Confederation.

We are also pleased to welcome Schering-Plough as a commercial associate member.