



# bulletin

Issue 16 2 June 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).

## **Majority of LHBs join the Welsh Confed**

The overwhelming majority of Local Health Boards are joining the Welsh NHS Confederation, bringing Wales into line with England, where around 90% of PCTs are in membership. Director Richard Thomas said: "We are delighted to welcome so many of the LHBs into membership. As well as giving them access to a wide range of services and benefits at Wales and UK level, their membership of the Welsh Confed will ensure that we can provide a strong, independent and united voice for NHS organisations from all parts of the service and all parts of Wales".

### **LHBs taking out membership are:**

Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly
Cardiff	Carmarthen
Ceredigion	Conwy
Denbighshire	Flintshire
Gwynedd	Merthyr Tydfil
Monmouthshire	Neath Port Talbot
Newport	Pembrokeshire
Powys	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Swansea	Torfaen
Vale of Glamorgan	Wrexham
Ynys Mon	

## **Priorities for new government**

In the week leading up to the Assembly elections on 1 May, we asked members what they thought should be the key health priorities for the new government. Almost two-thirds of members replied, and their message for the new government was clear:

- **Build capacity** – this means continuing investment in workforce, including management, and in infrastructure such as estates and IT. Capacity needs to be strengthened right across the health system.

- **Drive modernisation** - extra capacity needs to be accompanied by a culture of innovation and modernisation, with an emphasis on new ways of working rather than just doing more of the same. Structural stability and support from politicians are prerequisites for genuine modernisation.
- **Give clear and long-term strategic focus** – fewer, clearer priorities are essential, and these should be set in the context of a long-term strategic plan. There is also a pressing need to improve the co-ordination across different parts of the Assembly government to help ensure greater focus and clarity.

These messages were reported in Health Service Journal and Primary Care Report. Members have also raised concerns about the emphasis on putting "clear red water" between Wales and England in policy terms. This issue, and other comments which we receive from new members in particular, will be incorporated into a briefing which we will be sending to every AM and senior civil servants. Director Richard Thomas will also be raising these points in his regular meetings with Ann Lloyd and other senior decision-makers.

## **New Welsh Confed management committee**

Welcome to new committee members:

### **North Wales Region**

#### **Keith Thomson**

Chief Executive, North West Wales NHS Trust

#### **Lloyd FitzHugh**

Chair, North East Wales NHS Trust

#### **Grace Lewis-Parry**

Chief Executive, Gwynedd Local Health Board

#### **Meirion Hughes**

Chair, Denbighshire Local Health Board



### South West Wales Region

**Andy Williams**

Chief Executive, Powys Health Board

**Mary Griffiths**

Chair, Ceredigion Local Health Board

**Paul Williams**

Chief Executive, Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust

**Hugh Thomas**

Chair, Swansea NHS Trust

### South East Wales Region

**Margaret Foster**

Chief Executive, Pontypridd & Rhondda NHS Trust

**Simon Jones**

Chair, Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust

**Dr Mike Robinson**

Chair, Vale of Glamorgan LHB

**To be confirmed:**

LHB chief executive rep

### Co-Opted Members

**Roy Norris**

Chair, All Wales Ambulance NHS Trust

At its first meeting, the committee will consider the issue of other co-opted members.

### Gill Morgan visits North Wales members

NHS Confederation chief executive Dr Gill Morgan visited trusts and LHBs in North Wales on 13-14 May. Further detail of Gill's visit will follow. In the meantime, however, the issues raised by members who met with Gill are being taken forward in our influencing work.

### New deputy health minister

We would like to welcome back Jane Hutt as health minister in the wake of the recent elections, and we look forward to working with her and her team during this period of government. John Griffiths, the Assembly Member for Newport East, has been appointed as the new Deputy Minister for Health with specific responsibility for older people. Mr Griffiths is a former solicitor and a former councillor on Gwent County Council and Newport County Borough Council, as well as a member of the Co-operative Party, the Workers' Educational Association and the ISTC trade union. We look forward to building a constructive relationship with Mr Griffiths in the coming session and we will be inviting him to meet with us as soon as possible.

### More powers for the Assembly? Your views sought

The Richard Commission, which is looking at whether the powers of the National Assembly should be extended, has approached us to express concern about the lack of response received to date from NHS organisations, especially as health holds the largest single budget within the Assembly. Details of the Commission's work can be found at [www.wales.gov.uk/subi/richard](http://www.wales.gov.uk/subi/richard). If you have any comments which you would like to feed in, please contact Jonathan Davies on 01656 753647 ([jonathan.davies@welshnhsconfed.org](mailto:jonathan.davies@welshnhsconfed.org)).

### LHBs briefed on GMS contract funding

The proposed new GMS contract will mean major changes in the funding of primary care, and LHB representatives from all parts of Wales gathered in Newport on 12 May for a briefing on these issues from Mike Farrar, chair of the NHS Confederation GMS negotiating team. The event was organised by the Welsh NHS Confederation in conjunction with the National Assembly, and was attended by over 40 delegates from virtually every LHB in Wales. Director Richard Thomas said: "We were very pleased to see that so many LHBs took the opportunity to hear about this major shift in primary care. Mike has an extremely hectic schedule, and we were therefore extremely grateful that he took the time to make the long trip to Wales from Yorkshire to provide a briefing for LHBs." Mike Farrar's presentation, plus other information on funding issues, can be found on the GMS section of our website [www.nhsconfed.org/gmscontract](http://www.nhsconfed.org/gmscontract)

### Connecting 2003, Scottish Conference Centre, Glasgow 25-27 June

If you have not already booked your place for the UK NHS Confederation conference, please make sure you do so as soon as possible as places are being booked up fast. For further details, go to [www.nhsconfed.org/connecting](http://www.nhsconfed.org/connecting)

**Celtic Dinner 25 June:**

To book your place at this event, organised by the Scottish NHS Confederation, please contact Sandra Cummings on 01656 753028 ([sandra.cummings@welshnhsconfed.org](mailto:sandra.cummings@welshnhsconfed.org))

### The Welsh Connection 2003, Hilton Hotel, Cardiff 13-14 November 2003

After the success of last year's conference, we will shortly be taking bookings for this year's event. It is likely that one of the themes this year will be how Wales should respond to developments in England in areas such as primary care, foundation hospitals, HR and IT. Speakers already confirmed include HR and leadership expert Professor Michael West, back after his very well-received session last year, Dr Scott Greer, academic expert on health and devolution, and Chris Town, a leading PCT chief executive in England. To register your interest please contact [info@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:info@confed.wales.nhs.uk)