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Member's Update Issue 17 9 July 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.

Wales plays its part in biggest ever NHS Confed UK conference

Almost 2000 delegates from all parts of the UK gathered in Glasgow from 25-27 June for Connecting 2003, the annual conference of the NHS Confederation. The conference provided a unique opportunity for Confederation members from across the NHS to benefit from a high-quality programme of speakers and events, and to connect with colleagues from around the UK. With Glasgow as the venue, it was apt that a strong theme throughout the conference was the importance of the UK-wide dimension and of sharing learning across boundaries, a point made by Confederation chief exec Dr Gill Morgan and outgoing chair Dianne Jeffrey in their addresses to conference. For example, Wales's Children's Commissioner Peter Clarke took part in a flagship plenary session on children, and one of the conference strands, entitled "Learning Across Borders", brought together speakers from across the UK to outline the sometimes differing approaches to issues of common concern. Contributors from Wales in this strand were Andy Williams, chief executive of Powys Local Health Board, Judith Paget, chief executive of Caerphilly Local Health Board, Bob Hudson, regional director for south-east Wales and chair of the GMS implementation project board, and Professor Gareth Morgan from Cardiff University. Amongst delegates too, Wales was well represented, with members from trusts and local health boards joining representatives of the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure a strong Welsh presence both at the conference and at the social events, especially the Celtic dinner. Director Richard Thomas said: "we were delighted to see so many of our members at Glasgow. The UK conference is always a good opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Wales and the rest of the UK.

This means we can learn from others, and others can learn from us, and I'd particularly like to thank our speakers for highlighting on a UK-wide stage the good work that's being done here in Wales. We look forward to welcoming even more Welsh members to Connecting 2004 in Birmingham" (June 2004)

Derek Wanless to speak at Welsh Connection, Hilton Cardiff 12-14 November

The Welsh Connection 2003 is the annual conference of the Welsh NHS Confederation and the premier health event in Wales. Last year's event attracted over 200 delegates from all parts of the service, and from across Wales and beyond. The programme for this year's event is currently being finalised, but it will cover areas such as modernisation, IT, similarities and differences across the UK and rest of Europe, and what chief executives do. The following speakers are already confirmed:

- **Derek Wanless**, Head of the Chancellor's review into health resources, and adviser to the Welsh Assembly Government's review of health and social care.
- **Prof Michael West**, Professor of Organisational Psychology, Aston Business School
- **John Leggate**, Chief Information Officer and group vice-president (digital business), BP
- **Chris Town**, Chief Executive, North Peterborough PCT, and member of GMS contract negotiating team
- **Prof Brian Edwards**, chairman, HOPE (Hospitals of the European Union)



- **Phil Collins**, Marketing Director, Cerner (US healthcare organisation specialising in information systems, electronic health records)
- **Dr Scott Greer**, Devolution and Health project, University College London School of Public Policy
- **Jane Hutt**, Health and Social Services Minister, National Assembly for Wales
- **Ann Lloyd**, Director, NHS Wales
- **Dr Gill Morgan**, Chief Executive, NHS Confederation
- **Nigel Edwards**, Policy Director, NHS Confederation
- Anchored by BBC Wales journalist Peter Johnson. We will be contacting all members with further details shortly, but if you wish to register your interest please contact us at info@welshnhsconfed.org

Meeting decision-makers on members' behalf

In the past week, Director Richard Thomas and NHS Confederation chief executive Gill Morgan have both met with Ann Lloyd to take forward members' views. They discussed some of the issues which members had raised on Gill's recent visits to Wales, and in our recent survey about priorities for the new government. A meeting with Jane Hutt is arranged for 22 July, which is timely given the imminent publication of the Wanless report. One of the issues to be covered will be members' concerns about the impact of the "clear red water" policy direction.

Management committee report

The newly-formed management committee, made up of equal numbers of trust and LHB representatives, met for the first time on 3 July in BUILT Wells.

- Andy Williams, chief executive of Powys LHB, was nominated as vice-chair of the Welsh Confed.
- The following members were nominated to represent the Welsh Confed at the UK-wide Confederation council, subject to trustees' approval:

Lloyd FitzHugh, chair, North-East Wales Trust and chair of the Welsh Confed

Meirion Hughes, chair, Denbighshire Local Health Board

Simon Jones, chair, Cardiff and Vale Trust

Judith Paget, chief executive, Caerphilly Local Health Board

Paul Williams, chief executive, Bro Morgannwg Trust

- The committee also heard presentations from John Hill-Tout on the new performance management framework and from Martin Woodford on the project "Reducing the Burden of Bureaucracy in NHS Wales". In both cases, the committee welcomed the fact the Confederation would continue to be involved in discussions around these areas, to help inform the work being carried out.
- Other issues discussed included the Health and Social Services Committee forward work programme, and subjects to be raised with the minister.

Confed reaches 100% membership amongst trusts and LHBs

We are very pleased to announce that all LHBs and all trusts in Wales are now full members of the Welsh NHS Confederation. Director Richard Thomas said: "we are delighted that all the Local Health Boards have decided to join with us, and play a part in the Confederation both in Wales and at UK-wide level. Our key purpose is to influence decision-makers on behalf of members, and our ability to do this is strengthened enormously if we speak for the whole of the NHS in Wales. We look forward to continuing to work on behalf of all our members, old and new, and to act as a single united voice for all NHS organisations in Wales"

GMS contract – implementation info from Confed on new Assembly site

At the recent UK Confed conference in Glasgow, a series of briefings on various aspects of GMS implementation was launched. Although these were supported by the National Primary and Care Trust Development Programme in England, the Welsh NHS Confederation has secured agreement that these can also be made available to all LHBs in Wales. Hard copies will be sent out in the next few days. But the briefings and other resources to support implementation are also available on a new dedicated WAG website:

<http://healthplanonline.wales.nhs.uk/gms/publications-e.htm>

Highlighting issue of non-executive development

Director Richard Thomas is meeting representatives from the NHS Directorate human resources department to underline the crucial importance of providing ongoing training and support for non-executive directors and non-officer members as they carry out their vital role.