



bulletin

Member's Update Issue 18 16 Sept 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@welshnhsconfed.org

Richard Thomas to retire after 42 years' service

Richard Thomas the current Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation is retiring after 38 years service in the NHS in Wales and 4 years as Director of the Confederation. Richard has agreed to remain in post until his successor takes over, to help ensure continuity. The post is currently being advertised in the *Western Mail*, the *Daily Post* and the *HSJ*, and interviews are scheduled for early October. For further information on this post please contact Emma Jones, HR coordinator, at the NHS Confederation: emma.jones@nhsconfed.org

Raising members' views with Minister

Lloyd FitzHugh, Chair, Andy Williams, Vice Chair, and Director Richard Thomas met with Jane Hutt, Minister for Health and Social Services and Ann Lloyd Director of NHS Wales on Monday 4th August. Their key messages to the minister and director were:

- **Join up the jigsaw:** with so many important new initiatives under way, it was essential to ensure that the different pieces of the jigsaw fitted together. Initiatives such as the new GMS and consultant contracts, Agenda for Change, Informing Healthcare, the European working time directive, and the Wanless Review have to be implemented as parts of a whole, with a view to how they fit together and impact on each other.
- **Political courage to make difficult decisions:** the Wanless review made clear that the status quo is "unsustainable" and that new ways of providing services would be required. This will require difficult decisions and strong leadership from politicians, in support of NHS management who have to implement the changes.

- **Keep strong UK-wide links:** Wales is part of a bigger jigsaw, and it is important that links with the rest of the UK remain strong. The Confederation is to undertake work in this area, looking at how we can maximise the benefits both of devolution and of joint working across the UK. Members' views on this issue welcome – jonathan.davies@welshnhsconfed.org

The Welsh Connection 2003 13-14 November - booking forms available now

We are now taking bookings from members for The Welsh Connection 2003, the annual conference of the Welsh NHS Confederation, taking place in the Hilton Hotel, Cardiff on 13 and 14 November. This year's conference is on the theme of "Connecting the Jigsaw". A key feature of the health field in Wales is the growing number of initiatives and institutions. Against this background, it is important to look at how the different parts of the jigsaw fit together, and this question forms the overall theme of our conference. The keynote speaker this year is Derek Wanless, adviser to the recent review of health and social care. After the success of last year's sell-out event, interest in this year's conference from both delegates and exhibitors from across Wales and elsewhere in the UK is already high, especially given the increased number of health organisations in Wales. From 16 September we will be accepting bookings from non-members as well as members. For details contact us on info@welshnhsconfed.org or 029 2050 4090.



Management Awards 2003

We are pleased to announce that the Welsh Confederation is running its management awards competition again this year, in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline. These awards are aimed at highlighting excellence in management and at recognising the contribution made by management to good patient care. The competition is open to any team or group of people, primarily drawn from member organisations of the Welsh NHS Confederation. Full details will be sent to all members shortly. The award consists of support for training and development to the value of £4000, to be presented at the conference.

Informing Healthcare Launch 24 October

The Welsh Assembly Government strategy for information and IT, Informing Healthcare, is to be launched in Cardiff on Friday 24 October. Invitations to this event are being sent out by Jane Hutt. We are organising this event in conjunction with the IHM and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Pressing for support for non-execs and non-officer members

Director Richard Thomas has been expressing members' concerns to the Director of the NHS in Wales about the lack of training and development for NHS Trust NEDs and LHB Non Officer Members. The outcome is that Ann Lloyd is keen to put robust training arrangements in place and has asked the Welsh Confed to identify training and development needs and the format of the programme. We have convened a small group of members to take this work forward and will provide further information shortly.

Responding to Wanless – your views sought

At the recent management committee meeting, it was agreed that we would produce a response to the final report of the Review of Health and Social Care team, advised by Derek Wanless. If you have any views which you would like to feed into our response please contact us kevin.sullivan@welshnhsconfed.org (029 2050 4090)

UK Confed chair and chief exec visit members in west Wales

On 4-5 September, Peter Mount, Gill Morgan and Richard Thomas met with chairs and chief executives from trusts and LHBs from Carmarthen, Ceredigion, Powys and Pembrokeshire, and with the management committee. A wide range of issues were raised, and Gill's main feedback points were:

- The Welsh Assembly Government is facing a moment of truth with key decisions on health in Wales, and political courage was essential
- The strategic direction for health in Wales was still not sufficiently clear - there needs to be a stronger sense of where we are going
- A debate was needed in the wake of devolution on what is best done at Wales and UK level, and the Confed would help to trigger that debate
- With so many players now involved in the health field, it is essential to strengthen relationships between them to avoid the danger of fragmentation

New office and contact details

With the imminent closure of its base at Hensol Hospital, the Welsh NHS Confederation has just moved its office to Cardiff Bay, very close to the National Assembly for Wales and other all-Wales health organisations. Our new contact details are as follows:

Welsh NHS Confederation
Regus House
Falcon Drive
Cardiff
CF10 4RU

Tel 029 2050 4090

Fax 029 2050 4190

e-mail firstname.lastname@welshnhsconfed.org