



# bulletin

Member's Update Issue 19 23 Oct 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@welshconfed.org](mailto:kevin.Sullivan@welshconfed.org)

## **New director of Welsh Confed confirmed**

The NHS Confederation is pleased to announce that Mike Ponton, currently Director of Health Services Policy and Development for the Welsh Assembly Government, has been appointed as Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation to succeed Richard Thomas. The appointment selection panel comprised NHS Confederation UK chair Peter Mount and chief executive Gill Morgan, along with Welsh NHS Confederation chair Lloyd FitzHugh and vice-chair Andy Williams.

Mike, who takes up his post early in February 2004, is an experienced NHS manager and has held a number of senior and top management appointments in Wales, before taking up a senior Civil Service appointment in the former Welsh Office and subsequently the Welsh Assembly. We look forward to welcoming Mike to the NHS Confederation and wish him every success.

## **Wanless at The Welsh Connection, Hilton, Cardiff - last chance to book**

There are now only a few places left 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. The keynote speaker is Derek Wanless, and his address will be followed by a panel discussion bringing together senior health figures from across the UK. The session will also provide an opportunity for questions and for what we are sure will be a very lively debate about how the service and the Assembly should take forward the recommendations of the review. Other sessions include:

- Health and Social Care: connecting the key pieces of the jigsaw, with chief executives and directors from health and social services from England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

- Connecting the Jigsaw, with Confed chief executive Gill Morgan.
- Wales, Westminster, Europe, with devolution and health expert Scott Greer, and vice-president of Europe-wide health network HOPE Brian Edwards.
- Forward look for the NHS in Wales, with Ann Lloyd.
- Michael West on change management and new ways of working.
- Responding to Wanless - the leadership challenge, with Confederation policy director Nigel Edwards.
- An address by Health and Social Services Minister Jane Hutt.
- Achieving success as individuals and teams, with former Olympic athlete Nigel Walker.

If you have not yet booked your place, please contact us as soon as possible. Contact Sandra Cummings on 02920 504090 ([sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org](mailto:sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org))

## **Boards: making them more effective expert help for NEDs and NOMs offered at free Confed workshop**

If you are a NED or a NOM and you could do with some entertaining expert insights into what makes your board work (or not), why not come to a pre-conference workshop organised by the Confed on 12 November in Cardiff? The workshop will be led by David Mathew, who has wide-ranging experience in the field. It will take place from 3.30 to 5.30 in the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff on Wednesday 12 November, and will be followed by the chair's reception at 6pm. It is free to Confederation members, though places will be available on a first come first served basis.

To book places contact Sandra Cummings on 02920 504090 or [sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org](mailto:sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org) by Monday 27 October.



### **Working for NEDs and NOMs – update**

Supporting non-executive directors and non-officer members is one of our most important areas of work at present. We have therefore established a working group made up of NEDs and NOMs from member organisations, which will help us to develop our work in this area. The group had its first meeting in early October, and one key message from the discussion was that NEDs are given neither clarity about their role nor the support they need to carry out their work effectively. The meeting also provided an opportunity to raise these issues with Hilary Neagle and Della Martin from the Welsh Assembly Government, who had agreed to attend the meeting to listen to members' views and discuss how the current arrangements can be improved. Director Richard Thomas said: *"We see the Confederation supporting NEDs and NOMs in two complementary ways. First, we are pressing WAG to ensure that it puts in place high-quality induction and ongoing training programmes for NOMs and NEDs, and we have already undertaken to work with WAG on this. And secondly, we plan to extend the Confederation's own work aimed at NOMs and NEDs. For example we are working with UK Confederation colleagues to ensure that the Confederation's Nexus network meets the needs of members in Wales. We are also considering workshops, briefings and other events targeted specifically at NEDs and NOMs, and on Weds 12 November we will be holding the first of these with David Mathew giving his own unique and very entertaining insights into boards and how they work!"*

If you are a non-officer member or a non-executive director and would like to get involved in the Confederation's working group in this area, please contact [richard.thomas@welshconfed.org](mailto:richard.thomas@welshconfed.org) (02920 504090)

### **Informing Healthcare launch - 10 December**

The Welsh Assembly Government strategy for information and IT, Informing Healthcare, is to be launched in Cardiff at the Hilton Hotel on

10 December. Invitations to this event are being sent out by Jane Hutt within the next few days. We are organising this event in conjunction with the IHM and the Welsh Assembly Government.

### **GMS contract - AMs briefed on why it matters**

We have just produced a 2-side introductory briefing called *"The GMS contract - what it means and why it matters"*. A key audience for our influencing work on GMS is assembly members, and they were therefore the first to receive it. We released it on 15 October, the same day as a plenary debate on GMS in the Assembly and an announcement by Jane Hutt about the enhanced services which form part of the new contract. Our briefing was used by AMs in the course of the debate and we have had several requests from them for further information. We will be continuing to highlight the importance of GMS in our ongoing influencing work. The briefing will be available on [www.nhsconfed.org/wales](http://www.nhsconfed.org/wales) or please contact us for a copy.

### **Wanless survey - thank you**

Thank you to members who responded to our e-mail survey on the Wanless review recommendations; over two-thirds of members responded. We are looking at the responses at present and will be considering how best to take your views forward in our influencing work over the next few weeks.

### **Reminder: new office and contact details**

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