



# bulletin

Member's Update Issue 2 9 April 2002

*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).

## Confed chief executive visits members in Wales

Dr Gill Morgan, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, has just completed what she described as a "very useful, productive and enjoyable" two-day visit to member organisations in south Wales. Gill visited trust, LHG, and health authority members in their own workplaces, listening to their accounts of the challenges they face so that the Confederation is better able to support them. She also met with Ann Lloyd, Director of NHS Wales, to discuss ways in which the Confederation could strengthen its work with the Assembly. It was Gill's second visit to Wales since taking up her post on 1st February. She is planning a similar induction visit to members in north Wales and is also keen to find out more about best practice in innovation and service delivery across Wales. Summing up this visit she said, "It's clear from my meetings with members during my trip that the rest of the UK has a lot to learn from what goes on in Wales". More detail on Gill's visit will be featured in a forthcoming issue of *Bulletin*.

“A very useful, productive and enjoyable visit”

## Meeting with NHS Wales Director Ann Lloyd

Richard Thomas discussed a range of issues including the GP contract, the future role of the Welsh NHS Confederation, the implementation of the NHS Plan, and Assembly involvement in the Confederation-led Ideas Forums.

## Confed represented at Welsh Labour Party conference

Jonathan Davies spoke at a fringe meeting on telemedicine alongside deputy health minister Dr Brian Gibbons, highlighting the importance of this and other IT issues across the NHS.

## Townsend given go-ahead with review of data promised

**The Assembly voted 42-8 to proceed with the implementation of Townsend.**

In our response we had welcomed the principle of Townsend, though we raised some concerns about the quality of the data being used. Jane Hutt told the Assembly that she was aware of limitations in the data and that ways of improving the data would be considered.

## Building European links

Given that the European dimension is becoming increasingly important in policy and public debates on health and healthcare, we had an introductory meeting with Lynette Thomas of the Wales European Centre, a Brussels-based voice for Welsh interests in Europe.



## **Why are doctors unhappy?**

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This question is the starting point for a new research paper published this week by the Confederation. The answer, the report suggests, goes beyond workload and pay and relates to the increasing gulf between doctors' expectations and aspirations and the reality of the job. To order or download the report, members can go to:

[www.nhsconfed.org/publications/reports](http://www.nhsconfed.org/publications/reports).

## **GP contract framework imminent**

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The framework for the contract will be published and circulated within the next few weeks. We will be hosting an event in early June where members will have the opportunity to hear about and discuss the framework. Details to follow soon.

## **Primary Care Action Plan – Confed to host event**

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Phase 1 of the Plan is due to be published in July, and we will be holding an event in June, focused around the Plan. It will be an opportunity to have an input into the implementation of the Primary Care strategy. Details to follow soon.

## **Connecting to Europe (in Yorkshire!)**

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The NHS Confederation UK conference takes place in Harrogate on 22 - 24 May. For details go to: [www.nhsconfed.org/connecting](http://www.nhsconfed.org/connecting). The Welsh Confed is organising a session on what Europe means for health managers. Speakers are Philip Berman, Director of the European Healthcare Management Association, and Clive Needle, Director of the European Network of Health Promotion Agencies. The session will be chaired by Ann Lloyd.

PS: Places at the conference Celtic Dinner are going fast – to book yours, contact [sandra.cummings@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:sandra.cummings@confed.wales.nhs.uk)

## **New Ideas Forums – directors now in place**

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Our new Ideas Forums are taking shape. The directors for each of the four forums are now in place. They are:

- **Primary Care:** Judith Paget, General Manager, Caerphilly LHG
- **Acute Care:** Bob Hudson, Chief Executive, Gwent Health Authority
- **Partnerships:** Sian Richards, General Manager, Cardiff LHG
- **Mental Health:** Andrew Bellamy, Director of Policy and Planning, Swansea Trust

The Forums are provisionally scheduled for early July – more details to follow soon.

## **Dates for your diary**

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- **Thursday 7 - Friday 8 November:** The Welsh Connection 2002 – Welsh Confed national conference, Hilton Hotel, Cardiff. The theme of this year's conference is "management learning across boundaries", and we'll be bringing together top-quality speakers from a range of sectors to offer new perspectives on the challenges facing management. Booking forms available soon.