



bulletin

Member's Update Issue 21 15 December 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

Confederation Wanless campaign – influencing senior decision-makers

As part of the Welsh NHS Confederation's ongoing influencing work representatives of the management committee recently met with senior officials and advisers from the Welsh Assembly Government. The Confederation team included top figures from the organisation both at Wales and UK level, as well as representatives from the management committee and member organisations. The meeting was held under Chatham House rules.

The purpose of the meeting was to get a feel about politicians' longer-term agenda, what they think about the scale and pace of change, and to set up a constructive dialogue. The following issues were raised by the Welsh NHS Confederation on members' behalf:

- The timetable for LHBs to produce effective Wanless plans is extremely tight, given that it requires planning, consulting and producing a comprehensive strategy involving all stakeholders.
- The difficulties, scale and time involved in engaging with communities to obtain support for LHBs plans cannot be underestimated. The number of bodies to consult with in the limited time available makes developing a local coalition a difficult and complex task. For example, LHBs, trusts, CHCs, staff organisations, local government and other stakeholders who will vary according to the different services in question.

- The whole planning process would be much improved if there were a clear pan-Wales framework to enable LHBs to produce their plans, and to ensure good regional coordination.
- The NHS in Wales has a capacity problem which needs to be addressed in the short term alongside longer term health improvement plans.
- Devolution will invariably lead to policy divergence and it is important to remember that the border between Wales and England will remain semi-permeable due to cross border patient flows.
- Confederation representatives were concerned that NHS organisations were poorly represented on the project board, and said that the Confederation would be pleased to nominate representatives from its membership.
- The Welsh NHS Confederation will support the implementation of Wanless by leading an alliance of major players e.g. BMA, RCN, Royal Colleges, CHCs and other stakeholders.

Director Richard Thomas said: *"The meeting proved to be very helpful and was greatly valued by all present. Those present expressed the hope that this is the start of an ongoing dialogue to ensure the successful implementation of the Wanless recommendations. Members will be kept informed of the outcomes of further meetings as they occur."*

If you are interested in playing a role in our ongoing work on Wanless please let us know:
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Bro Morgannwg Trust wins Management Award 2003

At a ceremony at the Confederation annual conference in Cardiff, Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust was confirmed as the winner of the second annual Welsh NHS Confederation management award. The award, organised in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline, is aimed at celebrating excellence in management in NHS Wales and at underlining its contribution to patient care. 22 entries were received from all parts of the NHS and all parts of Wales, and the winner was announced by NHS Confederation UK chief executive Gill Morgan and GlaxoSmithKline vice-president of business environment John Lepore. Bro Morgannwg's winning entry was for the planning and development of a new primary care resource centre in Pontardawe in the Swansea valley. The existing buildings were condemned and so the opportunity was taken to design and build a modern facility to embrace and provide a truly whole systems primary resource centre. New community services have been incorporated and the resource centre now houses a community mental health team and state of the art dental suite as well as two new treatment rooms, a quiet room and a group therapy room. Director Richard Thomas said: "Our congratulations go to the team at Bro Morgannwg on winning the award, and our thanks go to all the other entrants for helping to make the award a success, especially the other two shortlisted entries - Neath Port Talbot hospital (Bro Morgannwg) and Rhondda Cynon Taff LHB diabetes annual review service. And of course our sincere thanks to GlaxoSmithKline for working in partnership with us on this award and for their continuing support."

Launch of Informing Healthcare a success

Around 200 senior figures from across the health field gathered in Cardiff on 9 and 10 December for a reception and official launch event for Informing Healthcare, the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for transforming healthcare using information and IT. The event was organised by the Welsh NHS

Confederation in conjunction with the Institute of Healthcare Management and the Welsh Assembly Government. In her address to the conference, Jane Hutt announced that £36 million per year was being made available for the second and third year of the programme, on top of the £16 million already announced for year one.

A recurring theme throughout the day was that an investment in information and ICT is an investment in patient care. This theme was also highlighted in a joint statement released to coincide with the launch, signed by the BMA, RCN, Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, College of Occupational Therapists and the Welsh NHS Confederation. Director Richard Thomas said: "The Confederation has always argued that information and IT central are central to high-quality patient care, as the Wanless review also makes clear. This is why we were pleased to work with WAG and the IHM on the launch."

Health and Social Care interface – Confed to give evidence

We have been invited by the health and social services committee at the National Assembly to give oral evidence early in the new year as part of their review of the interface between health and social care. The aims of the review are: "to evaluate the effectiveness of joint working and co-operation between the health and social care services; to identify good practice and to offer recommendations to improve joint working and co-operation between the key agencies." We are planning to convene an expert group from amongst the membership early in the new year, which would meet once to help inform our evidence. If you are interested in taking part, or if you would like to send us comments, please contact us: kevin.sullivan@welshconfed.org

The next edition of Bulletin will be in January 2004. Merry Christmas and happy new year from all of us in the Welsh Confed team.