



bulletin

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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

Meeting top team at new CHAI

Director Mike Ponton and UK chief executive Gill Morgan recently met with the incoming director of CHAI, Anna Walker, and other members of her top team. CHAI (the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Improvement) begins work on 1 April and has a remit for Wales as well as England. Although the task of inspecting NHS bodies in Wales will fall to the new Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) which is being set up as a unit of the Assembly, it is likely that CHAI will be looking at certain areas of healthcare on a cross-border basis. Following the meeting Mike said:

"We welcome CHAI's receptiveness to NHS Confederation calls for rationalising multiple inspections and accreditations; reducing the burden of information collection for CHAI reviews, and improving the capture of patient experience as part of reviews".

Mike Ponton, Director, Welsh NHS Confederation

The NHS Confederation will be seeking to strengthen its relationship with CHAI as they develop their new methods for NHS and independent sector inspections. Members' views will continue to be fed into CHAI during their start-up phase and into the consultation phase of the CHAI corporate plan from April 2004. To let us know your views please contact mike.ponton@welshconfed.org (02920 504090) or jane.austin@nhsconfed.org

Building consensus to deliver change

A main focus of the Confederation's work at present is to strengthen links with other key health and allied organisations so that we can establish common ground and keep up to speed on the key issues and changes currently affecting the NHS in Wales. With this in mind, top level meetings have taken place between the Welsh NHS Confederation and Richard Lewis and Richard Jones, the Welsh secretaries of the BMA and RCN, Sandy Blair, the chief executive of the WLGA, Clive Grace, the Director General of the Audit Commission in Wales and Richard Greville, Director of ABPI Cymru Wales. Meetings are also planned with other key bodies with the view to setting up a regular dialogue and exchange of information.

Wanless – Confed to represent members on project board

With Wanless implementation such a pressing issue facing members, the Welsh NHS Confederation has secured representation on the overall project board for Wanless and on the communications group. Ensuring that the voice of members was represented in this process was a key concern expressed by members at the last meeting of the Confederation's management committee.

"We know that members see Wanless implementation as a major issue, which is critical if the NHS in Wales is to be put on a sustainable footing. Having a seat at the table on these two key groups will ensure that we can represent members' views at the heart of the process".

Mike Ponton, Director, Welsh NHS Confederation



The Welsh Confederation is already making the point that Wanless needs to fit together with all the other change processes which the NHS is undergoing at present, such as Agenda for Change, new GMS and consultants contracts, and the working time directive: the jigsaw has to be joined up. Over the coming weeks we will be contacting members to ask for further input on Wanless, but if anyone has comments they wish to make to us on Wanless implementation in the meantime we would be very pleased to hear from them. (mike.ponton@welshconfed.org or kevin.sullivan@welshconfed.org tel: 02920 504090)

Director to visit members in North Wales

As part of his ongoing programme of visits to members across Wales, Director Mike Ponton is visiting LHB and trust members in north Wales on 22-23 March.

Leadership organisation for NHS Wales – Confed responds

In its response to the recent consultation on the proposed new leadership organisation, the Confederation reiterated the importance of investing in leadership and innovation to help shape a modern and high-quality NHS in Wales. Rarely has this been so important as it is now, with the fundamental changes which are sweeping across the NHS. The response also underlined the need to provide a focus for leadership and innovation right across the health system, not just the NHS. Also highlighted was the need for clarity about how the functions of the new organisation will fit with those of the new management unit in the Assembly's health and social care department, avoiding duplication and confusion.

UK Conference – 23-25 June 2004, Birmingham – book your place now

This year's UK Confed conference is called *Real Leadership: tough choices, difficult decisions*, and around 2000 delegates from across the UK are expected. For further information and to book your place go to: www.nhsconfed.org/annualconference

Vino y tapas! Celtic dinner 23 June – book your place now

The Celtic dinner at this year's annual conference has a Spanish flavour to it! It will be held on Wednesday 23rd June at La Tasca Tapas Bar and Restaurant, Broad Street, Birmingham. Over the past few years this has attracted well over 100 delegates from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and we have already received many advance enquiries about this year's dinner. We therefore strongly advise members to book as early as possible. We will be sending booking details out very soon. For further information in the meantime please contact us (sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org)

Diary date

IHM Welsh Division annual conference, 13 & 14 May 2004, Vale Hotel, Vale of Glamorgan *Fit for the future: today's challenge for tomorrow's NHS*. Enquiries and bookings to: Jayne Combe, Business Manager, IHM Welsh Division, 99 Cherry Grove, Sketty, Swansea SA2 8AX Tel 01792 204048 Email: ihmwales@btconnect.com

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