



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

Welsh Connection set to be biggest yet

With around 10 weeks to go, over 200 places for the Welsh Connection 2004 have already been sold, with bookings continuing to come in. The conference, on 25-26 November in Llandudno, will bring together delegates from all parts of Wales and across the border in England, from all sections of the NHS and from partner organisations in local government and the commercial and voluntary sector. The programme features keynote addresses from First Minister Rhodri Morgan, BBC broadcaster John Humphrys, and WRU chief executive David Moffett. We will also be holding a series of parallel sessions on topical health issues, details of which will be available on our website. The exhibition is now almost sold out. If you have not yet booked your place at the conference, you can download the booking form from our website www.nhsconfed.org/connecting/the_welsh_connection_2004 Rooms in Llandudno are also going fast. To book accommodation contact North Wales Conferences on 01492 873397 (bed.bookings@conwy.gov.uk)
Due to the very high demand for this year's conference we strongly advise you to book both your conference places and your accommodation as soon as possible.

Meeting with the First Minister

We have been invited to meet with First Minister Rhodri Morgan after we wrote to him recently to raise a series of issues of concern to members. This meeting will be an opportunity to ensure that members' views are heard at the very heart of government in Wales, and we will be providing a report for members after the meeting.

Influencing all parties in Wales and Westminster

Briefing politicians is one of the key areas of our work, and we are increasingly linking with AMs and MPs from across the parties. Following a very successful meeting with Welsh Labour MPs in July, we have now confirmed meetings for September and October in Westminster with all 4 Plaid Cymru MPs and both Liberal Democrat MPs, and with Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Plaid Cymru health spokespersons in the Assembly. We will also have a presence at the UK party conferences during the autumn.

Welsh Confed Award – submissions sought

For the third year we will be running our award in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline.

The award is aimed at highlighting the ways in which innovation is helping to improve patient care. 400 word submissions for the award, which will be presented to the winner at our conference in Llandudno, are invited from all members. All entries will be displayed on a poster exhibition in the conference venue, to help publicise the good practice found amongst the membership. Brochures explaining how to enter will be available soon, but please contact us with any queries in the meantime (kevin.sullivan@welshconfed.org).

We are planning further press work on chronic disease management, and if you have examples of good practice we would be very pleased to hear from you



Recent media work

We secured an article on chronic disease in the Western Mail in August, which prompted an accompanying editorial highlighting the importance of tackling this issue in Wales. In the coming weeks we will be trying to get further press coverage for chronic disease and the ways in which it is being tackled, to help push the issue up the agenda. If you have examples of good practice in chronic disease management which you would be willing for us to highlight with the media, we would be very pleased to hear from you (kevin.sullivan@welshconfed.org).

We also contributed to the cover feature in the 2 September edition of Health Service Journal, which looked at waiting times in Wales. A key part of our media work is to try and influence their agenda, rather than simply respond to it. With this in mind, we are meeting with senior BBC producers in the next fortnight, to give them an insight into the challenges facing members.

Developing a common vision - update

In late July we held a second meeting bringing together key organisations with the aim of developing a clear and shared vision of what the health system would look like in 2015. Attending were very senior figures from the BMA, Academy of Royal Colleges, RCN, RCM, Association of CHCs, and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, as well as academic experts. We were also pleased to welcome to this second meeting representatives from Unison and the new director of the WLGA. The results of these discussions will inform a publication which we will be launching in the next few months.

Evidence to Committee on smoking ban and mental health issues

The Health and Social Services Committee have invited us to give evidence on two issues over the next few weeks: user and carer participation in mental health services, and banning smoking in public places. If you would like further information on the terms of reference of this evidence, or have any comments which you would like to feed in to us, please contact us as soon as possible (kevin.sullivan@welshconfed.org).

Pensions Review briefing event – Cardiff, 20 Sept

The NHS Confederation is leading a review of the NHS pension scheme, in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department of Health. A free briefing event is being held for members in the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff on 20 September. For information and details on how to book, please go to: www.nhsconfed.org/events/transition_to_a_21st_century_scheme_cardiff.asp

Pharmacy contract

The NHS Confederation is negotiating a new pharmacy contract covering England and Wales. Following our recent survey of LHB members, we are currently considering how best to ensure that members get the support they need. We will be announcing details of this as soon as possible?

Further copies can be obtained from:

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