



# 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](mailto:kevin.sullivan@welshconfed.org)

## A Picture of Health: how the NHS could look in 2015

What could the NHS and the wider health system in Wales look like in 2015? There are many changes already under way, but what kind of service are they leading us towards? And what will it mean for patients? On 15 March we released *A Picture of Health*, which attempts to answer some of these questions, by giving an overall view of how the health system could look in 2015.

The report has been produced and endorsed by the following organisations, co-ordinated by the Confederation:

- Academy of Royal Colleges Wales
- Association of Welsh CHCs
- BMA Cymru Wales
- National Centre for Public Policy
- RCN Wales
- Royal College of Midwives
- Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care
- Welsh NHS Confederation

The aim is to set out a clear picture of where the changes under way could lead, and to show that these can be changes for the better. We hope that it will help focus the health debate on the future, and help to create the climate for change.

The report describes a health system which has as its main features:

- Improving health as well as treating sickness
- Better care for patients in their communities
- Team-working and technology
- New roles for hospitals – working differently, working together

To show that this vision of the future is achievable, we also gave examples from across the NHS in Wales of where the future is happening already. These were chemotherapy at home, school nurse texting, mobile treatment centres, the expert patient scheme, GP exercise referral, and skin cancer treatment being delivered by specialist GPs.

Following our press launch – at which we were joined by the Association of CHCs, BMA, RCN and School of Public Policy – we secured extensive media coverage. We provided background briefing to journalists to inform their comments, and gave interviews across BBC Wales TV and radio output, as well as to local newspapers and radio stations. We also pointed BBC Wales Today to examples to feature in their coverage: the Powys newborn hearing screening service and Gwynedd expert patient scheme.

The report has also been sent to all AMs and MPs and we have already received enquiries from politicians in Wales and Westminster. We will be following this up at the party spring conferences. As well as reinforcing the key messages from this document, our work on this project in the next few months will also include developing more detailed work on the areas covered.

How to get your copy: if you have not already received your copy, you can download *A Picture of Health* at [www.welshconfed.org](http://www.welshconfed.org). Hard copies are available from us on request.



## Meeting with Dr Brian Gibbons

We are meeting the health minister on 22 March. We will be underlining with him that members are facing severe financial pressures, having to implement important developments such as Agenda for Change at the same time as respond to rising demand. We will report back on our discussions of these and other issues after our meeting.

## Capital investment – Confederation responds

We welcomed the recent announcement of additional capital investment, saying that it was essential that we invest for change, not for more of the same. We said that *A Picture of Health* showed how a modern NHS in 2015 could look, and that investment must help take us in that direction.

## Party conferences

We will be attending the spring conferences of the political parties. Health has an even higher profile than normal in the run-up to a likely May election, and we will be trying to exploit this interest as much as possible to underline the challenges facing members and the need to support them as they make the difficult but vital changes to the way services are provided.

## Liam Donaldson in line-up at Cardiff patient safety conference

We are staging this major international conference in Cardiff on 23 June, working with HOPE (Hospitals Committee for Europe). Highlights of the programme include Professor Liam Donaldson, CMO for England, who will give the keynote address as chair of WHO Alliance for Patient Safety; Lord Hunt and colleagues from the National Patient Safety Agency; and the Health Foundation showcasing examples of good practice from all 4 UK countries. First Minister Rhodri Morgan and Health Minister Brian Gibbons will also be giving addresses. The event, to be held in the Cardiff International Arena, is likely to draw delegates not only from across the UK but also from elsewhere in Europe, as it forms part of the

programme for a gathering of over 300 senior health figures involved in the work of HOPE. It also sets the scene for the UK presidency of the EU from July onwards, as patient safety is the government's chosen health focus for its term. The conference is open to all. Further details and booking forms are available now on [www.welshconfed.org](http://www.welshconfed.org) and will be sent out soon.

## From Harvard experts to Max Boyce! The Welsh Connection 2005 – Cardiff.

This year's conference takes place between 2 - 4 November in Cardiff City Hall, focus for the city's centenary celebrations. Confirmed speakers so far include Dr Earl Sasser, Harvard-based expert on influencing and meeting the expectations of the people you serve, and Professor Larry Gostin, who is giving this year's prestigious Cochrane lecture on public health. Other keynote speakers will be announced soon. But we can also confirm that our after-dinner speaker this year – fittingly, given the resurgence of the Welsh rugby team this season – will be Max Boyce. Max played to a packed house at the new Wales Millennium Centre during its opening season, and will be entertaining delegates on the Thursday evening. Further information and booking forms will be available soon. To register your interest now please contact [sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org](mailto:sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org)

## UK Confederation conference and Celtic dinner

The UK conference takes place between 15-17 June at the International Convention Centre in central Birmingham. Confirmed speakers include Professor Donna Shalala, who was Health Services Secretary in the Clinton administration. For further details and to book on-line go to [www.nhsconfed.org/annualconference](http://www.nhsconfed.org/annualconference)

**Celtic dinner** – this year, the Celtic dinner is being organised by our head office colleagues in London, not by our office in Cardiff as in past years. The dinner takes place on Wednesday 15 June. The delegate booking form, available on the conference website, gives further details. If you have any queries please call 0870 24 24 427.

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