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28 JULY 2005

ISSUE 38

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 2005, Cardiff 3-4 November - book your places now!

Booking forms are now available for this year's Welsh NHS Confederation conference, which takes place in Cardiff City Hall on 3-4 November. The brochure and booking form can be downloaded from our website www.welshconfed.org/events. The theme of this year's conference is *Towards 2015: getting the balance right*, in line with the focus of *A Picture of Health* and the Welsh Assembly Government 10 year strategy *Designed for Life*. We have put together a programme of top-flight speakers from different countries and sectors. Confirmed speakers include:

- Professor Chris Ham, leading Health Policy Thinker
- Rhodri Morgan, First Minister
- Professor Sir George Alberti, emergency care "czar", Department of Health
- Dame Gill Morgan, NHS Confederation Chief Executive
- Professor Earl Sasser, Harvard Business School
- Dr Brian Gibbons, Minister for Health and Social Services
- Professor Larry Gostin, Public Health Faculty, Georgetown, USA

After last year's record number of delegates and exhibitors in Llandudno, we are expecting high levels of interest in this year's event. We therefore strongly encourage you to book your places as soon as possible. Further information is available on www.welshconfed.org or contact us at info@welshconfed.org

The conference dinner takes place on Thursday 3 November, with Max Boyce as the after-dinner speaker. Please note that the dress code for men is lounge suits rather than black tie.

Management committee report

The committee met on 21 July in St Asaph, and received reports from the chair and director on the Confederation's recent work on behalf of members. The committee welcomed our ongoing work highlighting the need for further investment to sustain change - a copy of our briefing on this subject is at www.welshconfed.org/briefings. The committee also discussed the current consultation on the WLGA manifesto, and agreed that it was important that the Confederation should respond to this document.

Investing to sustain change: reinforcing the message

The changes transforming the NHS are good news for patients, but the costs involved are considerable and investment is needed if the changes are to be sustained. This was the key message of our recent report *Transforming the NHS - the financial dilemma*. We have already written to the First Minister requesting a meeting with him to discuss these issues as soon as possible. Politicians in Wales and Westminster have already received our briefing on this subject, and we are continuing to highlight the key messages in our ongoing work with them. Our briefing - *Transforming the NHS: investing to sustain change* - is at www.welshconfed.org



Good work on chronic conditions: media coverage

Following the launch of our report into Kaiser Permanente, *From the Rockies to the Rhondda*, we have been working to secure media coverage of good work on chronic conditions already under way in Wales. We worked with The Western Mail on a double-page feature for Monday 18 July, with examples from Powys LHB and North East Wales Trust of ways in which they are improving services for patients with chronic conditions. Swansea LHB also secured two big features in the Evening Post, drawing on our report, and outlining how their pilot project on chronic disease management has reduced hospital admissions from the practices involved by 12%. To see these and other examples of recent coverage go to www.welshconfed.org/influencing/pressmedia

A National Public Health Service report, *The Prevalence of Chronic Diseases in Wales*, has just been published. It gives comprehensive figures which illustrate why chronic conditions have been called "the twenty-first century healthcare challenge."

State of Healthcare report- Confederation responds

The annual report from the Healthcare Commission was released on 18 July. It said that "it is clear that access to care is improving in Wales", highlighting a 99% fall in outpatient waits of over 18 months and an 86% fall in inpatient waits of over 12 months. In our statement we said that the report provided independent confirmation that, although there was much still to do, we had turned the corner on long waiting times in Wales. Our comments were reported in the Daily Post and local press and as lead story on BBC Wales on-line.

Diary date - WLGA conference, 3-4 October

This takes place in Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. Details available at: www.wlga.gov.uk

Informing Healthcare update

Informing Healthcare is the national programme to improve health service delivery through better access to information and knowledge. This month the programme is launching its first Service Improvement Coalition Projects with a two-day workshop in Cardiff. Six NHS Trusts and representatives from LHBs will be developing joint plans to improve healthcare information systems and processes. Bro Morgannwg, North Glamorgan and Swansea Trusts will be working on improving results requesting and reporting. Pembrokeshire and Derwen, Cardiff and Vale and Pontypridd and Rhondda Trusts will be working on transfer of care communications (referrals and discharges). The Projects will provide valuable lessons, whilst at the same time delivering immediate benefits to patients. A coalition involving Gwent and Carmarthenshire Trusts and Powys LHB, will hold a similar event in October. For more information visit www.wales.nhs.uk/ihc

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- Trying to find the main Welsh Assembly health web pages?
- Looking for key health websites, in Wales and beyond?

If so, why not check out the links pages on our website www.welshconfed.org. It can take you from NICE to WHO, from Informing Healthcare to St John's Ambulance. And you can find all our publications, including brochures and booking forms for our conference.

www.welshconfed.org - connecting you

If you have a health website that you would like us to consider adding as a link on our site, please contact jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org

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