



# 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)

## Funding: meeting the First Minister and Health Minister

The First Minister and Health Minister have agreed to meet us in a joint meeting on 16 September to discuss our recent report: Transforming the NHS – the financial dilemma. This will be an opportunity for us to underline that the changes transforming the NHS are good news for patients, but that the costs involved are considerable and investment is needed if the changes are to be sustained. 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](http://www.welshconfed.org). We will report on our meeting with the First Minister and Health Minister in our next issue.

## Making the Connections – your input sought

Spending on our public services in Wales has grown since devolution, and is predicted to continue to expand, at a slower rate, over the coming years. In the document 'Making the Connections' the Welsh Assembly Government sets out its proposals on how to maximise efficiency gains through the scale economies of more effective co-operation and coordination between agencies across the whole of the public sector. Examples included in the document include initiatives such as the deployment of new ICT applications to deliver shared corporate services, e-procurement and e-government at lower costs. We are in the process of writing our response to this initial document and we would welcome hearing members' views. Please send any comments to [jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org](mailto:jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org)

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

Brochures and booking forms are now available for this year's Welsh NHS Confederation conference – download them at [www.welshconfed.org/events](http://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

Bookings are already significantly higher than at this stage last year. We therefore strongly encourage you to book your places as soon as possible.

For further info about speakers, including biographies, and for the conference brochure and booking form, go to [www.welshconfed.org](http://www.welshconfed.org)



## Beat the All Blacks - book your conference hotels fast! Hilton already full

As well as conference delegates, rugby fans are arriving in Cardiff for the Wales v All Blacks game on 5 November. As a result, rooms are being booked very quickly. If you require any accommodation, we are strongly urging everyone again to book this as soon as possible. The Hilton Hotel have already said that they are now fully booked. Rooms should be booked with the hotels direct.

## Member training programme

We are currently working with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Office for Public Management on a programme of events which includes induction and training for board members. Members have indicated that there is a strong and urgent need for this. More details to follow soon.

## Responding to WLGA manifesto

We were asked to comment on this manifesto, which sets out the WLGA's priorities for the next few years. We welcomed the opportunity to comment as a close partnership between health and local government is vital at national as well as local level. In our response we said that we were pleased to see that social services was a key priority area. However, we were disappointed that there was very little reference to the wider partnership work between health and local government. We said that lots of good work in this area was already under way at local level across Wales, and that it was important to build on this success.

## Kaiser Permanente – what can we learn?

We are working with NLIH on two events which will focus on Kaiser and consider what the lessons are for Wales. This follows our study visit to Denver earlier this year, which led to our report From the Rockies to the Rhondda (available on [www.welshconfed.org](http://www.welshconfed.org)). More details to follow soon.

## GMS contract review – update

This review, agreed as part of the original contract, is under way in two areas. The quality and outcomes framework (QoF) review team is currently looking at suggestions for amendments to the existing QoF. Evidence-based recommendations based on these suggestions will go to the contract negotiators in the autumn, in time for an updated QoF to be in use by April 2006. Negotiators have also agreed a process for reviewing the financial formula, and have already begun to look at the factors used in the existing formula. We will shortly announce details of the other two streams of work of the contract review - dispensing doctors and enhanced services. For details go to:

[www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndConditions/pcc\\_gmscontract\\_review2006.asp](http://www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndConditions/pcc_gmscontract_review2006.asp)

## Media work – chief executives' pay

We responded to an article in the Wales on Sunday newspaper on this subject. In our response, which was printed on 28 August, we pointed out that NHS organisations have an extremely difficult and complex role, providing modern healthcare, and that leading them is a very demanding job. We said that comparable jobs in the private sector earn around 4 times as much, adding that it was vital that we recruit and retain the people we need to deliver twenty-first century health services.

### [www.welshconfed.org](http://www.welshconfed.org) - Connecting you

- 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](http://www.welshconfed.org)?

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