



bulletin

19 DECEMBER 2005

ISSUE 42

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

Hear Chris Ham on your computer or iPod! Go to www.welshconfed.org

Want to hear exactly what Chris Ham said about the NHS in Wales and about how to keep the focus on delivery? Or what England's emergency care czar George Alberti thought the future would look like? Or what Sahar Hashemi, who started the high street coffee shop revolution, has to say about innovation and building a successful organisation? If so, then you can now listen to direct streams of these and all other main speakers from our recent conference in Cardiff by clicking on the audio files from our website www.welshconfed.org. The MP3 audio files can also be downloaded to your computer so you can listen to them in iTunes, share them with colleagues, or even load them onto your iPod! It just takes a minute to do, following the instructions on screen.

Listening on-line is just one of the many new features of our website, www.welshconfed.org

- Having trouble finding key Welsh Assembly Government health documents?
- Want to know at a glance what's being discussed in the Health and Social Services Committee?
- Need to find one of the Welsh NHS Confederations own publications?
- Want to download conference presentations, so you can watch while you listen?
- Want to keep up with a diary of our events, or see our plans and the report from our management committee?
- Need to find a key health website – from Wales or elsewhere – and want to follow a link quickly and easily?

For help in all these areas and more, go to www.welshconfed.org. If you have comments or queries about our website, do just let us know (jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org)

Board members' development programme – coming soon

A key issue which members have highlighted is the need to provide better briefing for chairs and board members on key issues. So we have been working over the last few months to develop a programme of events for 2006, which will be aimed at new and existing chairs and other board members, and which will provide introductory briefings and challenging new perspectives on key issues from leading experts. The programme will be co-ordinated by the Welsh NHS Confederation, and delivered in partnership with a range of other organisations. Discussions with our partners are still in progress, but we will have further details of the programme content and costs early in the new year.

Media work – defending management and highlighting innovation

We responded in an article in the Western Mail on 12 December to criticisms of management and so-called "bureaucracy" which had been made a few days previously, as part of the media's coverage of NHS finances. We pointed out that "attacking administration" and "bashing bureaucrats" might make for great soundbites, but that they were ill-founded and unfair attacks on people who play a vital role in ensuring that the NHS can keep delivering patient care. We have also been working with BBC Wales, who have recently visited Finland to look at their much-admired work in health improvement and at how they use information and IT to improve patient care. We drew the BBC's attention to examples of where Wales is already doing good work in these areas, for example working with a BBC crew and with Blaenau Gwent LHB on coverage of the "smart house" in Tredegar, which is fitted with technological devices which allow service users greater independence.



Assembly budget approved with extra resources for health

We welcomed the news that the political parties in Wales had reached agreement on the budget, and that the extra money allocated for health had not been cut. After the draft budget, with the extra £108 million announced for health, was rejected in the Assembly, we worked extensively with politicians of all parties to highlight the importance of this extra money, especially given the cost pressures facing the NHS at this time. We will be continuing to highlight the need for sustained investment to help the NHS meet the costs of change and of delivering 21st century care. Our briefing – *Transforming the NHS: investing to sustain change* – can be found at www.welshconfed.org The UK NHS Confederation has also produced a briefing which outlines the financial pressures facing NHS organisations in England. Called *Money in the NHS: the facts*, it is available at www.nhsconfed.org

Diary date: Spring Conference, Llandudno, 11 May

The conference will look at changing professional roles and clinical leadership, and will feature top-flight speakers. To register your interest now contact us at info@welshconfed.org

Excellence classes on chronic conditions

These events, which we organised in partnership with NLIAH, took place in north and south Wales at the end of November and were very well-received. Delegates heard from a range of different health professionals who had been involved in the recent visit to see Kaiser Permanente in Colorado and their work on tackling chronic conditions. We have been asked to hold an additional event on this theme, which is likely to take place in March: details to follow soon.

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Making the Connections – send us your views

A new paper setting out our initial comments on *Making the Connections* is now available on www.welshconfed.org, along with a shorter briefing. We will be continuing to focus on this issue in 2006 and we would therefore very much welcome any input from members. We are also looking for examples of how NHS organisations in Wales are already working together effectively to deliver what *Making the Connections* describes as seamless, citizen-centred services, providing better value for money.

Best wishes for a happy Christmas from all of us at the Welsh NHS Confederation! Bulletin will be back in 2006.

Further copies can be obtained from:

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