



bulletin

Member's Update Issue 5 3 July 2002

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@confed.wales.nhs.uk.

GP contract - Welsh input on rural issues

The GMS contract negotiations are continuing, and the views of Welsh members are being fed into the process. Feedback from our recent event on the contract is being gathered and passed to the negotiating team. A full report on the outcomes of the day is currently being prepared and will be available for members soon. Meanwhile, the views of Welsh members are also being represented in a working group set up to look specifically at rurality and remoteness issues. This working group stems from a wider e-mail network co-ordinated by the Welsh Confed. The group will then report its findings to the negotiating team, to help ensure that the contract discussions take on board the particular concerns of members in rural areas. Wales will be represented on the working group by Dr Doug Russell, Head of GP Development at Dyfed Powys Health Authority, and Andrew Powell, assistant general manager of Powys Local Health Group. If you have any comments you would like to feed in please send them to kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk

Annual conference - watch out for booking forms in July

Within the next fortnight you will be receiving booking forms and brochures for The Welsh Connection 2002, our annual conference at the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff on 7-8 November. Our theme this year is "*management learning across boundaries*" and we have brought together top-flight speakers who will bring you insights and expertise from across professional and national boundaries.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Professor Aidan Halligan**, Director of Clinical Governance for the NHS (England)
- **Professor Michael West**, Director of Research at Aston Business School
- **Professor Pieter Degeling** and **Dr Fergus Macbeth**, authors of a recent study into clinical governance in Wales
- A panel of chief executives and directors from the AMICE network of major European healthcare organisations
- **Dr Gill Morgan**, chief executive, and **Nigel Edwards**, policy director, NHS Confederation.

Advance publicity has already generated a lot of interest in the conference. We are keen to ensure that members get the first opportunity to book their places and for a limited period we will be accepting bookings from members only. Details of this will follow with the booking form, but we strongly advise that members book as early as possible during this period. If you have any queries about the conference please contact info@confed.wales.nhs.uk

Confed at 10 Downing Street to inform key debate on lessons from US

There is growing interest in UK government circles in possible lessons to be learned from US healthcare providers such as California's Kaiser Permanente. Policy Director Nigel Edwards recently took part in discussions at Number 10 about this issue. A briefing, focusing on two examples (Kaiser Permanente and United), is forthcoming. Watch this space.



Confed welcomes Assembly's staffing boost targets

Jane Hutt recently announced plans to boost the number of healthcare professionals in Wales by 8700 by the year 2010. We warmly welcomed this announcement, arguing that more capacity is essential to meet the twin challenges of making up for decades of under-investment and keeping up with increasing demand. Our comments were reported in the Western Mail.

Welsh Confed to launch political briefings for AMs/MPs

The Welsh NHS Confederation will in the next couple of weeks be launching a new publication aimed at politicians in Cardiff and Westminster. This follows discussions with MPs and AMs. The publication will be called "*Political Briefing*" and will be aimed at giving an in-depth understanding to MPs, Assembly Members and local government of the huge pressures and challenges currently facing the NHS in Wales. The briefing will seek to regularly update politicians about specific issues facing our members in their day-to-day roles. We hope that by highlighting these issues we can raise awareness and at the same time encourage politicians to be realistic about expectations for improved delivery of services within Wales.

The first edition will primarily address the issue of the new additional monies for the NHS announced by Gordon Brown in the UK budget and the financial reality that this money will not be available in NHS Wales, until 2003/04 at the very earliest: raised expectations without raised revenues. We are very keen to ensure that our message to politicians is anchored in members' views. We appreciate that you are all very busy at the moment, but we would appreciate it if members could provide us with a list of the 5 or 6 most important bullet points that you would put forward to an AM or MP in a face to face meeting about this issue. We will then make use of your comments to ensure that the right message is sent on your behalf by the Welsh NHS Confederation. Please send your contributions to jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk

Confed influencing on IT - your views sought

We are currently planning an influencing campaign on IT, in the light of the Wanless report's conclusion that the cost of not having a modern IT infrastructure is enormous. The aim will be to get across our key messages to politicians, civil servants and the media, enlisting the support of other organisations where possible. We are very keen to ensure that these messages are strongly anchored in members' views and we would therefore be very pleased if you would like to contact us with any comments about the key points we should be making on the issue of IT jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk

Confed staff discuss effective UK-wide working

All Confederation staff from around the UK recently met in London to discuss how the organisation could work more effectively to support members right across the UK. This is especially important in the wake of devolution, to help ensure that we can share learning from all parts of the UK with our colleagues and of course with our members. As our political links illustrate, Welsh Confed staff are increasingly working in both a Wales and a UK-wide context to represent members' views.

Welcome to new Welsh commercial associate members

We welcome

- Abbott Laboratories,
- Boehringer Ingelheim,
- Roche Products and
- Sanofi-Synthelabo

as commercial associates of the Welsh NHS Confederation.