



# bulletin

August 2008 - Issue 68

**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 [sian.owen@welshconfed.org](mailto:sian.owen@welshconfed.org)

## Restructuring

The Health Minister outlined the next steps in her plans to restructure the NHS in a statement in plenary on 16th July and announced that she will consult on proposals to create seven integrated organisations. As ever, we will work hard behind the scenes to continue to influence the debate on structures, and will seek our members' views come the autumn when the new consultation period begins.

## Mental health consultation

We have prepared a draft response to the Health Minister's consultation on the future of mental health services in Wales – this will be circulated to members for comment in the near future. We have stated our belief that rather than creating one all-Wales mental health trust, mental health services in Wales should be integrated with the new organisations being discussed as part of the wider restructuring of NHS Wales.

We believe that the aims of mental health policy should be to provide integrated services that address the wider, social determinants of mental health and place more importance on "whole-life" outcomes, instead of focusing on clinical need alone. We feel that a single, all-inclusive organisation would make a seamless approach difficult and would stand the risk of becoming isolated and stigmatised.

We recommend that the future structure of mental health services should be in line with the findings of the Burrows Greenwell Report, which argued the case for a more integrated approach to deliver the improvements that are needed in mental health services.

## Welsh Annual Conference 2008 – Book now

We are now taking bookings for our Annual Conference, which takes place at Cardiff City Hall on the 6th and 7th of November. Conference brochures and booking forms are available on our website at [www.welshconfed.org](http://www.welshconfed.org).

Our theme this year is *The NHS at 60: Looking back to the future* and our line-up of high profile speakers will ensure that it remains the main event in the health calendar in Wales.

Amongst those confirmed to speak at the event are:

- Rhodri Morgan, First Minister
- Nigel Edwards, Policy Director, NHS Confederation
- Roger Lewis, Chief Executive, WRU
- Steve Thomas, Chief Executive, WLGA
- Laurie Taylor, social psychologist, writer and broadcaster.

Our voluntary sector exhibition is now fully booked and there are only three spaces remaining for our main exhibition. Please get in touch with [sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org](mailto:sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org) if you would like to book an exhibition stand for your company or organisation.

The conference is open to all, for further information, contact [info@welshconfed.org](mailto:info@welshconfed.org)

**Delegates are strongly advised to book accommodation as soon as possible as the Wales v South Africa rugby international takes place in Cardiff that weekend.**



## NHS 60

Our Director, Mike Ponton, represented the Welsh NHS Confederation in various media discussions that took place around the time of the 60th anniversary.

A special edition of BBC Radio Wales's Wales at Work programme looked at the changing roles of NHS staff over the last 60 years, and invited Mike to speak on behalf of NHS management.

Mike also took part in a live discussion on the Good Morning Wales radio programme to talk about the challenges facing the NHS as it looks to the future, especially in regard to the financial pressures it faces and how we respond to increasing costs and rising demand.

Both programmes gave us a valuable opportunity to explain some of the pressures managers face and talk about how difficult decisions will always have to be made by those who run the health service.

## Bay Watch and press summaries

Over the summer period, we will be reviewing two of our most recent services – our political bulletin, Bay Watch and our weekly press summaries – to ensure that they remain useful and informative, and in tune with what our members want.

If you have any views on either, or suggestions on how they could be improved, please let us know by e-mailing [sian.owen@welshconfed.org](mailto:sian.owen@welshconfed.org)

## Meeting room to hire

The Board Room at the Welsh NHS Confederation's new offices in Bridgend is available for hire. It will sit up to 24 boardroom-style, and we are currently installing video conferencing facilities, which will be fully operational at the end of August. We can also book lunch catering on your behalf and provide tea and coffee for your delegates.

For queries on charges and availability, please contact Tegan Williams on 0845 33 00 499 or [tegan.williams@welshconfed.org](mailto:tegan.williams@welshconfed.org)

## Briefings coming soon

We are working on a series of briefings to be released in early Autumn, which will outline some of the key challenges faced by NHS management. Amongst the issues discussed will be the role of Information Technology in high quality healthcare, the need to strengthen the role and profile of primary care, and the importance of good management during times of change.

Keep an eye out for the new briefings via e-mail and on our website at [www.welshconfed.org](http://www.welshconfed.org)

## Meetings attended this month

A member of the team represented the Welsh NHS Confederation at the following meetings in July:

- Partnership Forum
- Trustees of the NHS Confederation
- Wales Mental Health in Primary Care network (WaMH in PC)
- Wales for Africa
- 60th Anniversary reception at the Senedd

We also continued our regular programme of meetings with special advisors and senior staff at the Welsh Assembly to continue our "behind the scenes" work of influencing health policy upstream.

THE **WELSH NHS** CONFEDERATION  
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