

bulletin

Issue 79 - March 2010

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

Farewell Mike



After six successful years leading the Welsh NHS Confederation through a period of enormous change in NHS Wales, Mike Ponton retired as Director at the end of February.

Mike has been instrumental in growing the profile and influence of the Confederation enormously during his time as Director, thanks to his vast knowledge and experience of the NHS in Wales, together with his ability to build relationships across the health and social care community.

Mike has also been a well-respected leader of the Welsh NHS Confederation team over the last six years, and he will be very much missed by all of the team.

While a permanent replacement is recruited, Kate Watkins is Acting Director, in addition to her role as Director of the Welsh NHS Employers' Unit. Please direct any diary enquiries for Kate to tegan.williams@welshconfed.org or contact Tegan on 01656 643800.

Mental health board development

Two board development sessions on mental health are being held for independent board members on

March 30th and April 27th, at the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells. The first session will focus on the question "where we are going and what do we want to see?", while the second day will take a more detailed look at the current situation in Wales, and how our existing services match up to expectations and aspirations.

Full details on both sessions are available on our website on the link below:

<http://www.welshconfed.org/Mentalhealth.htm>

To book your place, please contact Sandra Cummings on Sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org or call 01656 643800.

Summer Masterclasses

This spring and summer the Welsh NHS Confederation, supported by GlaxoSmithKline, is holding a series of early evening masterclasses. Open to chairs, chief executives and board members of our member organisations, this varied programme of free events aims to provide an informal environment in which to learn from a range of expert speakers on some of the strategic challenges facing the NHS in Wales.

The first event on "Leadership through organisational change" will be held on April 19th at the Park Plaza

Hotel, Cardiff. Guest speaker, Simon Jose, General Manager and Senior Vice-President of GlaxoSmithKline in the UK, is currently leading GSK through its major change programme. He will be giving a personal perspective on sustaining organisational performance through a period of significant change.

Further events will feature sessions on engaging with politicians, managing relationships with the media, and the future of our workforce. Each session will be held in a central Cardiff venue, between 5-7pm, commencing with a light buffet supper.

Evening Masterclass Series:

Date	Title	Guest speaker(s)
April 19th	Leadership through organisational change	Simon Jose, General Manager and Senior Vice President, GlaxoSmithKline
June 21st	Friends or foes? Engaging with politicians in Wales	Dr Brian Gibbons AM, former Minister for Health and Social Services Senior Committee Clerk, TBC
July 26th	Working in the spotlight: getting the media onside	Penny Roberts, leading Welsh broadcaster
September 14th	Taking a strategic approach to your workforce	Paul Kearns, HR strategy consultant and author

To book a place at any of these events, please contact sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org or call 01656 643800.

For more information, please see our website at

<http://www.welshconfed.org/Masterclasses.htm>

Political news update

Meeting First Minister

We will be meeting Carwyn Jones AM, the First Minister on the 26th of March. We will be hoping to discuss several issues including the tightening of public sector finance and the implications for the future work of the NHS in Wales. Further details of the meeting will be circulated in due course.

Westminster visit

On Wednesday the 4th of February, Mike Ponton and Jonathan Davies visited Parliament to brief Welsh MPs on current issues in NHS Wales. The day was a great success and included meetings with several members of the Welsh Parliamentary Labour Party, including the Secretary of State for Wales, a meeting with Hywel Williams from Plaid Cymru and a meeting with Welsh Liberal Democrat MP Jenny Willott.

New Special Advisors

Jonathan Davies has now met with the two Special Advisors who have been appointed to succeed Mark Drakeford. Jo Kiernan has taken over the health portfolio and Andrew Bold is the new Special Advisor to the First Minister. Both are very keen to continue the working relationship that had been previously developed.

The Efficiency and Innovation Board

At the Public Services Summit in February, the First Minister announced the establishment of an all-Wales Efficiency and Innovation Board, chaired by the Minister for Business and Budget. The Welsh NHS Confederation has a seat on the board, which is comprised of leaders from across public services, including the NHS, Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities, Wales TUC, and the voluntary sector. Kate Watkins attended the first meeting of the Board last week.

Media work

We worked with BBC Wales on a story about NHS finance in February, explaining how NHS organisations face the dual challenge of managing tight financial settlements at the same time as making continuous improvements in patient care. Working with Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board, we co-ordinated filming of an appointment booking system in Neville Hall Hospital, which is saving NHS resources by reducing DNA rates from 9% to 2%. We also gave broadcast interviews to BBC Wales Today and S4C Newyddion. We explained that although the future will be tough for all public services in Wales, everyone must work together to make the most out of the public pound, and improve safety and quality at the same time.

Joint working with local government

Kate Watkins recently met with Steve Thomas, chief executive of the Welsh Local Government Association, to discuss opportunities for joint working. Future outputs may include work on how health and local authorities can work together better throughout the predicted squeeze on public sector budgets, what the barriers to change have been in the past, and what are the potential positive solutions for the future.

National Assembly Committees

A number of National Assembly Committees are conducting inquiries into health-related subjects, and the Welsh NHS Confederation is playing an increasing role in collating views from the NHS for written responses and co-ordinating oral evidence sessions.

Mary Burrows, Chief Executive of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, gave evidence for a Children and Young People Committee's scrutiny session on mental health services for children and young people. This evidence was supported by a written submission, and was followed-up this week by another oral evidence session with vice-chairs Janet Hawes and Sue Kent.

Written evidence has also been submitted to the legislation committee looking into the proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure. Oral evidence was given by Dr Ed Roberts, Vice-Chair of ABM University Health Board, and Peter Llewellyn, Head of Partnerships and Integrated Commissioning at Hywel Dda Health Board.

We are currently co-ordinating written and oral evidence for two Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee inquiries into neonatal services and Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

For further information or to contribute to the

evidence-gathering, please contact neil.desmond@welshlhb.org

Governance guides

Business cards have been sent to all Board Secretaries in Wales with details of our web-based guide to governance in NHS Wales. The website brings together a wide selection of advice, practical help and guidance to help board members get to the grips with what is governance, and how to do it well. Printer-friendly documents have recently been uploaded to the site for ease of reading.

The website can be found on www.welshnhsboarddevelopment.org

Any feedback on the content or design of the web guide is welcome and should be directed to sian.owen@welshconfed.org

Doctors' Revalidation

The GMC launched its consultation on revalidation for doctors in Wales on 9 March 2010 at an event in Cardiff. The consultation will run until 4 June. We will be working closely with the GMC in Wales and the Service to ensure that views are represented and fed into the process. If you require further information about the consultation, please contact thewayahead@gmc-uk.org or telephone 020 7189 5280.

Welsh NHS Employers' Unit News

For a round-up of news from the Welsh NHS Employers' Unit, please see the latest edition of the Workforce Bulletin on the link below:

<http://www.welshconfed.org/companyData/1898/resources/Employer%20workforce%20bulletin%202.pdf>