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Member's Update Issue 8 2 October 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.

First Minister to speak at Confed conference dinner

We are delighted to announce that First Minister Rhodri Morgan has accepted our invitation to attend our annual conference dinner in Cardiff on 7 November, and to address the guests. He will join Health Minister Jane Hutt, NHS Wales Director Ann Lloyd, NHS Confed chief executive Gill Morgan, and around 150 others for what promises to be a major event in the health calendar in Wales. Welsh Confederation Director Richard Thomas said: "We are delighted that the First Minister is taking time from his extremely busy schedule to join us. We know that health is a key issue on the Assembly's agenda and we are therefore especially pleased that Mr Morgan will be taking the opportunity to speak to our guests. They include most of the senior figures from NHS management in Wales, along with many high-level figures from other sectors and countries."

Conference bookings about to close - last chance to book

Exhibition and sponsorship opportunities are now completely sold out. At the time of going to print there were a handful of delegate places remaining. If you have not yet booked your place you are strongly advised to do so immediately: info@confed.wales.nhs.uk or 01656 753028.

Information and IT - Confed prepares to respond

The Assembly's information and IT plan, Informing Healthcare, is due to be released in the next few days. It looks likely that comments will be invited on the principles of the plan, with the full document being made available on the website. The Confederation is keen to use this opportunity to underline the importance of the information and IT agenda, and we will be undertaking a range of activities on these issues as well as developing a formal response to the plan. If you would like to be involved in our initiatives in this area, or if you have any views on the issues we should be raising, we would be very pleased to hear from you: jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk

Ideas Forums starting up

The first of our Ideas Forums were held on 26 September, with 30 representatives from a range of member and partner organisations, including a visiting delegation from Jamaica, exchanging views and ideas on some of the key issues in acute and primary care. The forums are a new initiative from the Confederation, and they are aimed at sharing learning and ideas and developing new ways of working. Director Richard Thomas, in his welcome address, said that they would provide an outlet for a range of innovative ideas, as well as a useful source for informing Confederation policy. Partnerships and mental health are also areas which will be covered by Ideas Forums, and we are setting up an on-line discussion network with links both within and between the forums. Details of this, and a report on the first sessions, will be available very soon. If you are interested in playing a part in the Forums, please contact Jonathan Davies on 01656 753647 jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk



Working with Assembly on 5 year strategic plan for NHS

The Assembly is looking at developing a 5 year strategic plan for the NHS in Wales, to help link together the 1 year timeframe of the SAFF process and the 10 year timeframe of Improving Health in Wales. We warmly welcome this initiative. We believe it is essential that modernisation is carried out within a strategic framework and that there should be a convergence between short, medium and long-term objectives. We have indicated our willingness to be involved in the process and we hope to have more details soon.

Confed expresses serious concerns on draft mental health bill

The Confederation has put in a hard-hitting response to the recent consultation paper on the draft mental health bill. Members in Wales were invited to feed in their comments and it was clear that there was widespread concern about the impact of the proposals in the draft bill. In our response, which was submitted on behalf of the Confederation in England and Wales, we expressed a range of concerns, in particular about the emphasis on compulsion and risk reduction and the lack of adequate safeguards.

Election for chair of Confed under way

The term of office of the current chairman, D Hugh Thomas, comes to an end at the AGM in November, and we have therefore begun the process of electing a chairman for the next two years. All full members of the Confederation are eligible to vote and the process is now under way.

Chairman's reception at Hilton

We are planning a reception for senior figures from public life, especially in health, politics, academia and the media, to be held the evening before our conference begins - Wednesday 6 November. The aim is to raise the profile of the Confederation and to promote our key messages on the issues that affect our members.

Performance appraisal - opportunities to feed into the process

Director Richard Thomas has been asked by NHS Wales Director Ann Lloyd for Confederation input into improving this year's performance appraisal arrangements for chairs, chief executives and NEDs in NHS Wales. We will be taking this work forward in the next few weeks. If you wish to feed in any comments or ideas on this issue, we would be pleased to hear from you: richard.thomas@confed.wales.nhs.uk

UK-wide Confed workshop to share learning

Representatives from member organisations across the UK are meeting in Belfast this week at the latest UK-wide workshop. This is aimed at sharing learning across boundaries and updating colleagues on developments in other countries. The workshop will be preceded by a meeting of the UK-wide Confederation management team, which brings together the chief executive and directors from across the UK. This meeting is aimed at establishing the way forward for the Confederation as a UK-wide organisation.

GMS Contract out-of-hours - views sought

We need your input on alternative methods of out-of-hours delivery already under way or under development, including any evaluation that may have been conducted. We would also like a view from NHS Confederation members as to how you would like to see out-of-hours care delivered if there were no barriers in place. Please contact policy and research officer Carolyn Jones Carolyn.jones@nhsconfed.org (020 7959 7231) with a brief outline of either a scheme already in place, or a proposal for how one could function, before 11 October.

Management awards - deadline 11 October

Don't forget to submit your entries for the Welsh NHS Confederation management awards, in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline. The awards are aimed at underlining that management matters, and at celebrating excellence in management in NHS Wales. If you would like another entry form, or for further information, please contact Kevin Sullivan on 01656 753644 kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk

We are very pleased to welcome **GlaxoSmithKline** as new commercial associate members of the Welsh NHS Confederation