



# bulletin

Member's Update Issue 9 16 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](mailto:kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk).

## **Informing healthcare - we want your views**

The Assembly's information and IT plan, Informing Healthcare, has now been released. The document is the final report of the Information Task and Finish Group which was set up as part of the implementation process for Improving Health in Wales. A summarised version of Informing Healthcare has been published for consultation, with a deadline of 30 November. The summary can be downloaded from: [www.wales.nhs.uk/ihc](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/ihc) (internet) and <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk> (intranet). The full report is available at:

[www.wales.gov.uk/healthplanonline/workinggroups/content/ihc-e.pdf](http://www.wales.gov.uk/healthplanonline/workinggroups/content/ihc-e.pdf). Comments are being sought on the summarised version.

The Confederation is very keen to use this opportunity to underline the importance of the information and IT agenda, and we are strongly encouraging members to respond to this consultation. We will be submitting a formal response and undertaking other activities to take forward members' views on this key issue. Our members have indicated to us that a small group of people with expertise in this field should be brought together to input into the Confederation's final response to the consultation. Nominations from within member organisations should be sent by Thursday 24 October to Jonathan Davies. If you wish to give us your views but are not able to sit on the group we would be very pleased to hear from you:

[jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk) (01656 753028)

## **Assembly Roadshows on Informing Healthcare**

The Assembly is planning a series of roadshows across Wales so that NHS organisations can hear more about Informing Healthcare and feed in their comments.

The Confederation is pleased to promote these roadshows and to encourage members to attend. We will have a stand at all of the events and we hope that members will take the opportunity to come and tell us their views:

### **The Assembly roadshows are as follows:**

- 13 November, Kinmel Manor, Abergele, North Wales
- 15 November, Halliwell Centre, Carmarthen
- 25 November, Hensol Conference Centre, Bridgend
- 28 November, The George Hotel, Brecon

To reserve a place and for more information, please e-mail Alison Stubbs at [Alison.Stubbs@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Stubbs@wales.gsi.gov.uk). Please note that the Confederation cannot deal with queries about the roadshows.

## **GP contract talks - keeping LHBs informed**

The GMS contract negotiations are continuing, with Welsh members strongly represented on the Confederation sub-groups negotiating the detail in the areas covered by the contract. The new contract, if approved, is likely to bring far-reaching changes across the NHS, but especially for primary care organisations. With this in mind, we are planning to hold a briefing for incoming chief executives of the new Local Health Boards. This event, which would follow our June event on the contract framework and a written briefing we have already provided to the chief execs who have been appointed, would be aimed at providing an update on progress in the negotiations and at getting comments which could be fed back into the process. We will be publishing details soon, but in the meantime if you are interested in this opportunity please contact us:

[kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:kevin.sullivan@confed.wales.nhs.uk)



## Spotlight on Wales at UK social services conference this week

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The annual UK-wide social services conference takes place in Cardiff this week. For details go to [www.adss.org.uk](http://www.adss.org.uk). In keeping with the increasing importance of partnerships with our colleagues from social services, the Confederation is leading two initiatives at the conference:

### 1 Welsh members to speak on future of social care:

This session, on 17 October, will give some NHS perspectives on this issue, drawing on work by thinktank the Institute for Public Policy Research. Speaking are Dr Pradeep Khanna, consultant physician in geriatric medicine from Gwent Healthcare Trust, and Rachel Marsh, Director of Community and Therapy Services at Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust.

### 2 Launch of a new vision for children's services.

The Confederation has produced a report on the future for children's services, which will be officially launched at the conference. The report, entitled Delivering the Vision, was produced in collaboration with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services. Although focused on England it covers issues of relevance across the UK, and may be of particular interest to Welsh members given Wales's pioneering approach to children's services, for example with the appointment of the UK's first children's commissioner. The report, together with an earlier discussion paper called Serving Children Well, will be available in the "Priorities" section of our website - [www.nhsconfed.org](http://www.nhsconfed.org)

## Confed active at UK party conferences

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Over the past few weeks the Confederation at UK-wide level has been taking forward members' views with politicians from the main parties at the annual party conferences. Chief executive Gill Morgan met with Simon Stevens, special adviser to the Prime Minister, Hazel Blears MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, and with key members of the Opposition front-bench health team. She also shared a platform with Dr Liam Fox, Shadow Secretary of State for Health. We hosted in conjunction with partner organisations a series of health receptions at the conferences of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties.

## Ideas Forums - log on and have your say

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Many thanks to all those who attended the first Welsh NHS Confederation Ideas Forum on the 26th of September. The morning was both useful and stimulating and we at the Welsh NHS Confederation hope that people will want to continue to be involved with the Ideas Forums in the future.

The Intranet site for the e-Forum is now ready for IF members to use. Over 40 people who expressed an interest in participating in the IFs have now received their usernames and passwords to enable them to log on. The web address for the e-Forum is: <http://welshnhsconfederation.bambooning.com/login/>

This site gives access to the online forum, a dedicated e-mail address, a personal diary and access to many Welsh NHS Confederation publications. If you want a username and password to start participating in the IF e-forum, please e-mail:

[jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:jonathan.davies@confed.wales.nhs.uk)

## Members from across UK share learning across boundaries

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Representatives from member organisations in Wales joined counterparts from elsewhere in the UK in Belfast recently to exchange news and views about the latest health developments in the various countries. This was the third such workshop and was aimed at exploiting the opportunities afforded by devolution for learning about similarities and differences in approach to health and healthcare issues across the UK.

## The Welsh Connection 2002, 7-8 November - bookings now closed

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The closing date for bookings was Friday 11 October. Confirmation to booked delegates will follow in the next week or so. There are no delegate places currently available. However, we have started a reserve list so please contact us if you would like to be added to this ([info@confed.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:info@confed.wales.nhs.uk)). Exhibition and sponsorship opportunities are sold out.