



# bulletin

28 February 2008

Issue 64

**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)

## Gill Morgan moving back to her roots

Chief Executive of the UK NHS Confederation, Dame Gill Morgan, will be leaving her post in May to become Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Assembly Government, replacing Sir Jon Shortridge who retires in April. Gill has been at the helm of the Confederation for six years, leading it through a time of great change in the NHS. Although we will be sad to see Gill leave the Confederation, we welcome her return to Wales and look forward to working with her in her new role.



## Welsh Affairs Committee inquiry into cross-border services

The Confederation has been called to give evidence to the Welsh Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry into the provision of cross-border public services for Wales. Mike Ponton will attend the session in March and we are currently working with our partners in the UK Confederation to prepare written evidence. This will include the issue of financial flows between LHBs and PCTs for English residents who are registered with and cared for by Welsh GPs.

Please let Mike know of any issues you would wish to be included in his brief at [mike.ponton@welshconfed.org](mailto:mike.ponton@welshconfed.org)

## Meeting with the Health Minister

Marilyn Pitman, Chair of Blaenau Gwent LHB and Mike Ponton attended a meeting between the Minister, Edwina Hart and the Strategic Liaison Group. The group is made up of Local Health Board Chairs, Local Authority Leaders and is supported by the Welsh NHS Confederation and the WLGA. It is a hugely beneficial forum in which to discuss the partnership agenda in Wales. We hope that this constructive meeting will be the first in a series of regular meetings with the Minister, who valued the group's work and recognised it as an important and unique resource.

## Spring workshops

We are changing the format of our Spring Conference this year to a series of workshops to be held over two half days in Llandudno, 23 - 24 April. The subject will be "Mental Health – where do we go from here?" Steve Shrubbs, Director of the UK Confederation's Mental Health Network, will facilitate the event, which will focus on the future direction of mental health services in Wales. A full programme and booking details will be available soon. In the meantime, register your interest at [info@welshconfed.org](mailto:info@welshconfed.org)

## Northern Ireland and Scotland visits

The Confederation continues its work with NLIH on their review of governance of small countries. Recent visits to Scotland and Northern Ireland have provided valuable information on their health and social care reforms. A report of the visits will be published in the near future and NLIH will be sponsoring a small country governance conference later in the year.

## Reportage and Bay Watch

All of our members will have received copies of our two most recent publications – *Bay Watch* and *Reportage*.

*Bay Watch* is a weekly roundup of all the health related issues being discussed at the National Assembly. We hope it will become an important communication link keeping you up to date on relevant events from Cardiff Bay.

*Reportage* is a quarterly bulletin outlining health developments from further afield in Europe and how they could impact on the health scene in Wales.

We have had very positive feedback so far from members but please keep your comments coming. E-mail your thoughts and suggestions to [sian.owen@welshconfed.org](mailto:sian.owen@welshconfed.org)



## Political influencing

Our important political influencing work continues with a series of meetings with key special advisers at the Welsh Assembly Government. Jonathan Davies recently met with Mark Drakeford, special adviser to Rhodri Morgan. Mike Ponton will soon be meeting with the recently appointed Professor Tony Beddow, who is leading a review into the structure of the NHS.

If you have any queries about our influencing work please e-mail [jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org](mailto:jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org)

## NHS 60 reminder

As the 60th anniversary approaches, we will be working with the media to find examples of how the NHS has changed and what it will be like in the future. We will be looking for: -

- Stories, anecdotes and case studies that demonstrate just how far the NHS has come (technological advances, changes in working and clinical practices etc)
- Examples of how your NHS organisation is changing to meet the needs of the future – e.g. moving care out of hospitals, new medicines, ways of working
- Any events you will be holding to mark the occasion.

If you can help with any of these items, then please get in touch by e-mailing [sian.owen@welshconfed.org](mailto:sian.owen@welshconfed.org)

## Leadership in the NHS

Our most recent column in the Western Mail focussed on the often thorny issue of NHS Management. We highlighted the difficult job that managers face, having to make emotive decisions in an uncompromising and unpredictable environment. We explained how inspirational leadership can make a huge difference in the NHS, but managers need to be confident of wider political priorities. We outlined some of the areas where NHS managers could make improvements, but also how WAG could support managers as they make those changes.

Read our article in full on this link: -<http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/news/health-news/2008/02/11/lifting-the-nhs-game-91466-20459670/>

## Partnership Forum

Mike Ponton and Jonathan Davies attended the Partnership Forum meeting on the 27th February. Issues for consideration at the meeting included the future purpose and modus operandi of the Partnership Forum. The meeting was very constructive with the unions, employers and the Assembly officials all finding a large degree of consensus around the way forward. A document is being produced detailing the discussions, which will be circulated to members when it is finalised.

## Meeting room available for hire

The Board Room at our new office in Bridgend is available to hire for meetings. The brand new room can seat up to 24 (boardroom style) and will have video conferencing facilities soon. Contact Sandra at [sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org](mailto:sandra.cummings@welshconfed.org) for more information on rates and availability.

## Fax number

We now have a fax facility up and running, which is available on **01656 657320**. This number, together with all our other contact information, is available on our website at <http://www.welshconfed.org/ContactUs.htm>

## Diary dates

Spring Workshop - 23rd and 24th April

Welsh Annual Conference - 6th and 7th of November

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