



# bulletin

October 2008 - Issue 70

**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)

## Health Minister to speak at Conference

The Minister for Health and Social Services, Edwina Hart MBE, has been confirmed as a speaker at our forthcoming annual conference on November 6-7th.



We are delighted that the Minister will be addressing the conference, themed The NHS at 60: Looking back to the future, which takes place in Cardiff City Hall. There are still some places remaining so please do not miss this opportunity to hear the latest thoughts from the Health Minister as we embark upon the restructuring of the NHS.

Speakers also confirmed include:

- **Rhodri Morgan**, First Minister
- **Roger Lewis**, Chief Executive, Welsh Rugby Union
- **Nigel Edwards**, Policy Director, NHS Confederation
- **Baroness Rennie Fritchie**, management consultant
- **Ann Lloyd**, Head of Department, Health and Social Services
- **Professor Laurie Taylor**, social psychologist, writer and broadcaster
- **Steve Thomas**, Chief Executive, Welsh Local Government Association
- **Dr Phil Hammond**, GP, writer and broadcaster, will provide after dinner entertainment at our conference dinner at the Hilton Hotel, 6 November.

If you haven't yet booked your place, download a brochure and booking form from our website on the link below as soon as possible:

<http://www.welshconfed.org/WelshAnnualConference2008.htm>

## Political influencing

Plans emerging for the future structure of NHS Wales have shown that the Welsh NHS Confederation played a key role in their development.

Our responses to the consultations on NHS reorganisation and the future of mental health services were reflected in the outcome of both.

In an Assembly debate, Conservative health spokesperson, Jonathan Morgan, paid tribute to the Confederation for raising the issue of where social services fits into reorganisation. He quoted comments given by our Director, Mike Ponton, on how restructuring provides an opportunity to create the right conditions for closer working and an eventual integration between health and social care. The Health Minister confirmed it is an issue she will consider after the reorganisation.

Read the transcript of the debate here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=99113&ds=10/2008#a5>

We were also pleased that the Minister's statement on the future of mental health services featured comments from our consultation response. The Minister quoted our view that a single, all-Wales mental health trust would stand the risk of becoming stigmatised and isolated.

Read the Minister's statement here:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/newsitem.cfm?contentid=10685>

Copies of both our consultation responses can be found in the political centre of our website on the link below:

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



## Press work

The Minister's statement on NHS reorganisation sparked a number of media enquiries seeking the viewpoint from management.

We were supportive of the general direction of travel in comments given to BBC Wales, Western Mail and the Health Service Journal on the day.

We said that the reorganisation was a positive step for the NHS in Wales, and that the new health bodies would be well placed to deal with the difficult problems the NHS must tackle.

We also provided detailed comment to the press in response to the Assembly's draft budget for the NHS, highlighting the difficulties NHS management will face in the next financial year if they are to meet challenging waiting times targets and balance the books.

Read both press releases here:

<http://www.welshconfed.org/PressReleases.html>

### New BBC health correspondent

We have met with Elin Gwilym, the new health correspondent for BBC Wales. Elin previously worked in the political unit at the BBC and has taken over from Hywel Griffith. We briefed her on current events and issues affecting NHS management and offered our help and support for future stories. We would encourage all communications officers to get in touch with Elin and strengthen this important communication link.

### Western Mail columns

Links to all our Western Mail columns from 2008 are now available on our website.

In a recent column, we highlighted the key role NHS board members play in the safety and quality of frontline care. We used the 1000 Lives Campaign as an example to show that leadership is crucial to creating a culture of continuous improvement across the entire organisation.

In the light of the Minister's statement on NHS reorganisation, our most recent column contained a brief synopsis of Managing Transitions, a key text by William Bridges on how to manage major organisational change and its impact on staff.

Links to all of our columns can be found on our website on the link below:

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

## Cardiff University Masters of Public Administration

The MPA degree is the public sector equivalent of an MBA and is widely recognised in the United States, the UK and many other European countries.

Cardiff University's MPA programme is specifically designed for managers working in public services in Wales. It puts particular emphasis on citizen-focused services, collaborative working and effective leadership in the NHS and other sectors, and it has attracted senior managers and aspiring senior managers from across the health service, local government, civil service, police and voluntary sector.

The course draws directly upon the latest management thinking and practice, and is delivered in three day modules designed to fit around a busy work schedule.

The university is now recruiting for the next intake which will start in January 2009. If you would like to be considered for inclusion in the next cohort or would like further information and an application pack please contact:

Dr Tom Entwistle at Cardiff Business School on 029 2087 5503;

**email:** [EntwistleT@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:EntwistleT@Cardiff.ac.uk) or visit:

<http://courses.cardiff.ac.uk/Postgraduate/course/detail/960.html>

## Publications going green

From now on, all printed Welsh NHS Confederation publications will, wherever possible, be on recycled paper. At our forthcoming conference, we will be launching a number of new publications, including a public-facing brochure on community services and new briefings on management, IT, primary care and the Assembly draft budget. All of our publications will be available in electronic format on our website.