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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

Welsh Annual Conference 2009 - Thinking forward, thinking different

November 12-13th, Cardiff City Hall

There is just under a month left until the Welsh NHS Confederation's Annual Conference 2009, Thinking forward, thinking different. A full programme has now been published, including details on Dr Chris Jones's work on the primary and community services programme for Wales.

We have secured a line-up of high-profile speakers, including:

- **Greg Dyke** - former Director General of the BBC
- **Rhodri Morgan AM** - First Minister for Wales
- **Scott Greer** - Professor Political Science, University of Michigan
- **Irwin Turbitt** - Warwick University Governance Unit
- **Julian Le Grand** - Professor of social policy at the LSE
- **Plus four breakout sessions**, each focusing on a different element of Dr Chris Jones's primary and community services programme for Wales, with an introduction from the Minister for Health and Social Services, Edwina Hart MBE AM.

The programme is available to download from our website, along with the brochure and booking forms, on the link below:
<http://www.welshconfed.org/WelshAnnualConference2009.htm>

Political activity

We have met with a range of AMs, senior officials in WAG and special advisors in the last few months to ensure as smooth a transition from the old structures to the new as possible. We have been influential in shaping the new structures as well as on individual issues such as performance measures for the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Media work

We have been very active across all media outlets in Wales, giving comments on a variety of topics around the re-structuring. We participated in the press and media coverage of the introduction of the restructured NHS on 1 October, including an interview on Radio 4's You and Yours programme, and we facilitated BBC Wales filming at Monnow Vale Health and Social Care Centre, Monmouth and the Carmarthen Demonstrator project to showcase the future direction of health services in Wales, bringing services into the community and closer to people's homes.

The online news coverage and video of the report can be found here:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8283265.stm>

We have continued our regular column in the Western Mail. Recent articles and features include issues such as the relationship between the voluntary sector and the NHS and the challenges facing the new NHS in Wales. All of our columns can be found on our website here:

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

Consultation responses

We submitted comments to the Welsh Assembly in response to two recent consultations on the future of rural health services, and the community nursing strategy. Our responses can be downloaded from our website on the links below.

Rural health: -

<http://www.welshconfed.org/companyData/1898/resources/RuralHealth.pdf>

Community nursing: -

<http://www.welshconfed.org/companyData/1898/resources/CommunityNursing.pdf>



Migrants Forum

Our Policy and Communications Manager, Jonathan Davies, has represented NHS Wales at several meetings of the Migrant & Gypsy Traveller Group. This group has now developed a comprehensive work plan and a 'Welcome to Wales' document is being produced to give migrants and travellers a wide range of essential information about Wales. We have recently completed a re-drafting of the health section of this document.

Social Partnership Scoping Group

Our Director, Mike Ponton is a member of the Social Partnership Scoping Group which is a follow on from the Welsh Assembly Government's Partnership and Managing Change Agreement. Part of the agreement was a commitment to develop a social partnership for Wales and Andrew Davies Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, who is leading on this, commissioned this small scoping group to seek agreement on key issues to strengthen social partnership and mutual understanding. The group includes the WTUC, RCN, Business Wales, WLGA and WAG. A report has now gone to Ministers, one product of which will be a Public Sector Summit.

Out of Hospital Care

Janette Wilkinson, a secondee to the Confederation from Sanofi-aventis, is studying Dr Chris Jones' primary and community care programme with the view of preparing a comprehensive review of the 'what and hows' to change the balance between hospital and community care. A further product will be a simplistic picture for the public domain of what the services of the future will offer, what they will look like and how they will work.

Leadership and OD Group

We have been given membership of this Group and confirmed as recognised partners in the field of board and management development in the new NHS.

International Peer Review Wales Audit Office

The Welsh NHS Confederation was amongst those to give evidence to the Peer Review, the report of which was published on 8 October and is available to read here:

http://www.wao.gov.uk/assets/englishdocuments/Peer_review_eng.pdf

Unscheduled Care Reference Group

Our Director, Mike Ponton, is a member of this group, which has met on several occasions to advise the Wales Audit Office's work on unscheduled care and to help sift and interpret the evidence they are gaining from their work

Sustainable Development

We recently shared the stage with Jane Davidson at a WAG engagement event with the wider public sector in Wales. This gave us the opportunity of not only reporting the green initiatives underway in the NHS, but also to discuss the issues related to ensuring that we develop an NHS that can survive in the future in facing the challenges of pressure on scarce resources such as people, skills and funding.

A visitor from New Zealand

During the summer, Mr Chris Clarke, who was the Chief Executive Officer of Hawkes Bay District Health Board in New Zealand, presented to us his experiences of working with and repairing a failing board. His presentation slides can be found on:

<http://www.welshconfed.org/companyData/1898/resources/WalesHealthReformslides.pdf>

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