



bulletin

February 2010 - Issue 78

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

Director Vacancy

Mike Ponton retires at the end of February after six years as Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation. The search for a new Director is in full swing, with adverts placed in the major media outlets in Wales. The Director will be responsible for the leadership of the Welsh NHS Confederation and for the planning, management and delivery of its business. Closing dates for applications is Friday 29th January. For more information, and a briefing for candidates, please visit our website at <http://www.welshconfed.org>

New governance guides for members

We have launched two new guides to help members with governance, and how to do it well. A pocket book has been produced in conjunction with the Good Governance Institute, packed with summaries of current Welsh policy, studies from around the world and sources of further information. The pocket book is supported by a more in-depth governance website, which brings together a wide selection of advice, practical help and guidance.

Both the pocket book and the website aim to provide practical support in an easily digestible format, helping to arm board members with the knowledge and tools they need to ensure their organisations consistently provide safe, high quality patient care.

See the website: www.welshnhsboarddevelopment.org. Copies can be ordered by e-mail to - sian.owen@welshconfed.org

Special advisor links continue

The Welsh NHS Confederation meets regularly with Welsh Assembly Government special advisors as a core part of our member services. Special Advisors perform a key role in supporting Ministers in their political work and are liaison points with parties, civil servants and the broader political world.

After Rhodri Morgan's departure and the arrival of our new First Minister, Carwyn Jones, there have been a number of changes to the way we work with the special advisors. Jo Kiernan has moved from her previous press and media role to take on the role of Special Advisor for health. Jo has agreed to continue with the regular schedule of meetings with the Welsh NHS Confederation and we will be meeting her on the 10th of February. A returning face is Andrew Bold who becomes the senior special adviser to WAG. We are currently seeking a meeting with Andrew to establish a regular schedule of meetings.

Mark Drakeford, the senior advisor throughout Rhodri Morgan's tenure is leaving the team, and the Welsh NHS Confederation would like to place on record our thanks to Mark for all his help during his time as a Special Advisor. Without his help our job would have been a much more difficult one.

For more information on special advisers and how we work with them, visit the political section of our website at: www.welshconfed.org

First Minister meeting

The new First Minister, Carwyn Jones, has agreed to a meeting with us. The meeting will take place on either the 25th of February or the 11th of March. Further details will be circulated in due course.

Westminster visit

On Wednesday the 4th of February, Mike Ponton and Jonathan Davies will be visiting Parliament to brief Welsh MPs on current issues in NHS Wales. Already confirmed is a presentation to the Welsh Parliamentary Labour Party and a meeting with Hywel Williams from Plaid Cymru and a meeting with Welsh Liberal Democrat MP Jenny Willott. Welsh Conservative MPs, Stephen Crabb and David Jones have also been approached for meetings and we are currently waiting a response.



Plenary briefing well received

We issued a briefing to all AMs ahead of a plenary debate on the maintenance backlog in the NHS. Maintaining the NHS estate – the £505 million challenge? We received very positive feedback from AMs, special advisors and WAG, with many of the points raised in our briefing used in the plenary session. The briefing was also supported by a comment given to the Western Mail.

View the briefing here::

<http://www.welshconfed.org/companyData/1898/resources/Estate%20final.pdf>

Nuffield Trust report

We gave extensive comment to the press following the publication of the Nuffield Trust report on devolution. Mike Ponton, was interviewed by BBC Radio Wales' Good Morning Wales programme and ITV Wales. Our written statement was given extensive coverage in the Western Mail and Welsh print media. This media work has been widely welcomed.

Mike's parting thoughts

With 50 years' experience working in the health service, Mike Ponton shared his parting thoughts on the NHS in a double-page Western Mail feature. Read Mike's take on how the NHS has changed, and the challenges it faces for the future here:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/health-news/2010/01/11/fifty-years-working-in-the-health-service-91466-25568106/>

Assembly committees

We have co-ordinated written responses and oral evidence sessions for a number of assembly committee inquiries over recent months. Our members represented NHS organisations at the Equality of Opportunity's inquiry into discrimination against people living with HIV by healthcare professionals, and the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's inquiry into wheelchair services.

We are currently co-ordinating an oral evidence session for the Children and Young People's Committee on the recent HIW report into services for children with emotional and mental health needs.

All of our written responses will be available on our website in the coming weeks

What's new on the website

We recently published our Annual Review, which gives a summary of all our activities on behalf of members during 2008/09. The review is available to download from our website here:

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

Missed the conference? Read a round-up and view the picture gallery on the following link:

<http://www.welshconfed.org/WelshAnnualConference2009.htm>

If you need to get up to speed with who's who in the restructured NHS, our website has an up-to-date list of our core members on

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

GMC sets new standards - Tomorrow's Doctors

The General Medical Council recently held the first in a series of nationwide road shows to help medical schools and employers implement the changes required by the GMC's Tomorrow's Doctors standards for undergraduate medical education. The meeting was attended by staff from Cardiff and Swansea Medical Schools, medical directors and other senior stakeholders in the health community in Wales, who will be working together to ensure the new curriculum is effectively implemented across Wales.

Tomorrow's Doctors sets the standards that medical students have to meet before they graduate and must be implemented by 2011/12.

THE **WELSH NHS** CONFEDERATION
CONFFEDERASIWN **GIG CYMRU**



Unit 3, Waterton Park
Bridgend CF31 3PH

Tel 01656 643 800
E-mail info@welshconfed.org

www.welshconfed.org