



# The Voice of NHS Leadership in Wales

Annual Review 2019/20

THE WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION  
CONFFEDERASIWN GIG CYMRU



## Who are we?

The Welsh NHS Confederation is the national membership body representing all the organisations making up the NHS in Wales: seven Local Health Boards, three NHS Trusts and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW). We are part of the NHS Confederation and host NHS Wales Employers.

## What do we do?

Our mission is to be the authentic voice of the NHS leadership in Wales. We aim to support our members in improving the health of the population and the planning and delivery of high-quality health care. We support our members by acting as a driving force for positive change through strong representation, facilitating system leadership and our proactive policy, influencing, communications and engagement work.

## How do we do it?

### Our work includes:

- Building strong relationships and working in partnership with other organisations
- Engaging with Ministers, Members of the Senedd, key stakeholders and Government officials
- Responding to consultations and inquiries and appearing at or supporting members to attend Senedd Committees
- Helping people understand the challenges facing the NHS in Wales and the need for change
- Sharing good practice from across Wales and the rest of the world
- Building trusted relationships with the media and communication teams across the NHS in Wales
- Organising and hosting events and meetings to bring key NHS Wales employees and stakeholders together
- Representing our members at conferences and external events
- Producing and publishing briefing documents and reports to initiate and shape debate
- Providing a co-ordinated voice for the NHS in Wales as the UK left the EU and during the Transition Period
- Working with colleagues in the wider NHS Confederation to share learning, good practice and policy thinking

@welshconfed

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# A Year in the Welsh NHS Confederation

## April 2019 - March 2020

### Supporting our members

**Members...** asked us to assist and support their preparations in submitting oral and written evidence to Senedd Committees on key policy areas.

**We...** supported over 90 NHS Wales representatives to provide oral evidence to Committee inquiries on a wide range of key policy areas, including the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's inquiry into the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Bill and the Children, Young People and Education Committee inquiry into the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill.

**Members...** asked us to support the work of the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Chief Executives Group meetings.

**We...** provided ongoing corporate and executive support to over 40 Chairs, Vice Chairs and Chief Executives Peer Group meetings, including meeting agenda development and organisation, minute taking, coordination and follow up of actions and research, preparation of papers and managing attendance of invitees.

**Members...** asked us to continue to programme manage NHS Executive Director Peer Groups in the execution of their individual work programmes and to aid joint working that is effective and efficient.

**We...** provided programme management, information, and administrative support to 10 Executive Director Peer Groups during 2019-20 in the development and delivery of initiatives in their work programmes and connected relevant Peer Groups in key system initiatives to encourage partnership working. This activity, covering more than 100 individual and cross-groups meetings, involved significant meeting administration and coordination.

**Members...** wanted us to support the two-way sharing of information on the Welsh health and care system transformation with other jurisdictions across the UK.

**We...** facilitated the first NHS Confederation's NHS Forum through bringing together over 50 health and care leaders from across the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) to share good practice and to discuss how integration can improve outcomes and respond to population health and demand.

**Members...** asked us to deliver an Annual Conference and Exhibition which highlighted innovation and brought together leaders from across health and social care.

**We...** hosted a conference attended by over 300 leaders from across the health and social care sector. We also used the conference to launch a new joint-working toolkit for industry and NHS Wales with ABPI Cymru Wales.

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# Facilitating System Leadership

**Members...** wanted us to work with partners to drive forward integration and the aims of *A Healthier Wales*.

**We...** worked with the Welsh Local Government Association to present a half-day seminar at the National Social Care Conference. This was focussed on how Regional Partnership Boards have used the funding available through Welsh Government's Transformation Fund to support the development of and scale up new models of seamless health and social care. We also represent members on the Transformation Programme Board.

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**Members...** asked us to highlight opportunities to work with public, third and independent sectors to benefit health and wellbeing.

**We...** provided partners with an understanding of new models of care, producing publications on how NHS organisations are implementing *A Healthier Wales*, how good housing can have a positive impact on health, and on how the arts can support peoples' health and wellbeing through keeping people happy, healthy and independent.

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**Members...** asked us to provide opportunities to increase knowledge and understanding of health and care services across the UK.

**We...** hosted a roundtable session for members with Sir Sam Everington from the Bromley by Bow GP Partnership and their pioneering work on community involvement. The informal discussion raised many interesting opportunities, issues, and potential solutions to the provision of a fully integrated system.

**Members...** asked us to organise networking events and opportunities to outline the work of the NHS Wales, particularly with an emphasis on new ways of working.

**We...** focused on new models of care at a Networking Seminar "*Right Service, Right Place, Right Time*" and arranged a session with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Commissioner's office for the NHS leaders in Northern Ireland and Scotland to encourage understanding of the Act and its aims and requirements.

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**Members...** asked us to develop policy groups with a variety of health and social care organisations to develop shared policy positions.

**We...** continue to Chair and work with stakeholders through our Policy Forum, which includes over 60 health and care organisations across Wales, to develop shared policy positions on key priorities, build strong working relationships and identify new ways of working. In preparation for the 2021 Senedd election, the Policy Forum worked with representatives of the three main political parties in Wales to highlight ongoing priorities and share intelligence.

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**Members...** wanted us to work with the Arts Council of Wales to raise awareness of the benefits the arts can bring to health and wellbeing.

**We...** published three briefings looking at the arts and how it can make a powerful contribution to a person's health and wellbeing, including in social care settings and preventing loneliness and social isolation. We are an active member of the Cross-Party Group on Arts and Health at the Senedd and the Arts Council of Wales was a key partner in this year's Annual Conference.



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# Representing our members

**Members...** wanted us to develop system-wide responses to Senedd Committees and Welsh Government consultations while continuing to build positive relationships with Members of the Senedd.

**We...** we provided the views of the NHS leadership in Wales through developing written responses to more than 10 Senedd Cymru/ Welsh Parliament inquiries and Welsh Government consultations and have been mentioned over 40 times in the Senedd. We have enhanced our relationship with Members of the Senedd to keep our members informed of their upcoming work programmes and attended approximately 30 Cross-Party Groups at the Senedd.

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**Members...** asked us to represent their views and voice their preparations on Brexit by producing briefings and providing evidence to the Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament Committees.

**We...** have produced 9 briefings, including on the key issues for health and social care in Wales, the NHS and future trade agreements and reciprocal healthcare arrangements, and provided evidence on two occasions to the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee on how the Welsh NHS was preparing for Brexit.

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**Members...** asked us to increase our representational voice to become the “go to” organisation for the media and build our relationships with key contacts.

**We...** regularly issue proactive and reactive statements and give media interviews on behalf of our members. We published over 25 Press releases and articles, featuring over 70 times across press and broadcast media, provided 7 radio and TV interviews, and contributed 5 opinion pieces across trade and national publications. We began issuing media statements in response to Welsh Government press releases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**Members...** asked us to influence Brexit forums and groups in Wales and UK-wide and keep them up to date on all the latest developments for health and social care.

**We...** have issued nearly 40 editions of our Brexit at a Glance newsletter, updated our FAQs 28 times to reflect the changing landscape and issued 13 publications. We continue to actively represent members on a significant number of health and social care groups at a UK and Welsh Government level. We provide secretariat support for two key Welsh Government health and social care groups and are members of the UK-wide Cavendish Coalition, the Brexit Health Alliance, and the Home Office’s National Advisory Group.

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**Members...** asked for their views to be heard in assessing partnership working.

**We...** actively participated in the Welsh Local Government Association / Welsh Government Strategic Partnership Review requested by the Welsh Partnership Council. This work involved capturing the views of key stakeholders on partnership improvement and as a result we have developed strong links with organisations representing the care sector in Wales.

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**Members...** wanted us to drive forward health care system improvement and to identify obstacles and potential solutions.

**We...** published over 40 briefings showcasing good practice and innovation across the NHS in Wales, including the bi-monthly *Implementing A Healthier Wales* across the NHS and the journey towards implementing the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in Wales.

**Members...** asked us to represent their views and increase engagement through a wider range of media channels, including social media.

**We...** We have increased our Twitter following by nearly 400 new followers in the last 12 months and increased our LinkedIn following by almost 50%. We have also developed 6 podcasts and 5 blogs to generate content-rich social media posts, including with the Health Minister.

## NHS Wales Employers

**Members...** wanted us to support employee relations and partnership working at an All Wales level.

**We...** continue to support colleagues and represent NHS Wales at the Workforce Partnership Council, the Welsh Partnership Forum and facilitated and supported the delivery of a number of joint partnership priorities.

implementation of workforce policies and procedures.

**We...** continue to lead on and facilitate the review of policies and procedures in line with the timetable agreed by the Welsh Partnership Forum. In 2019 we established and supported a partnership review group to oversee the delivery and implementation of the revised Managing Attendance at Work policy and we will continue to support this work in 2020.

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**Members...** needed a new approach to managing conflict in the workplace and support in developing a “healthy working relationships” framework.

**We...** put a structure in place to identify best practice and to develop appropriate learning and development amongst Workforce & Organisational Delivery practitioners and Trade Union colleagues.

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**Members...** asked us to continue the valued support to the Workforce & Organisational Development Directors peer group and both Assistant Director groups.

**We...** continue to provide monthly support to the groups, including the arranging of the meetings, development of the agendas, drafting of papers, briefings, and consultation responses, arranging and liaising with guest speakers and following up actions to ensure that the groups work effectively to deliver the Workforce & Organisational Development priorities.

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**Members...** said they needed us to continue our work in supporting the development and

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June 2020

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