

## **Wales Health Student Forum**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 09:30 - 16:30**  
**SWALEC Stadium**

**Present:** Data not recorded due to new online attendance system.

### **Apologies:**

**1. Welcome & Introductions:** Claire Harries (CH) chaired the meeting and welcomed colleagues, also noting newer members. Representatives were invited to introduce themselves to the forum.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Minutes were circulated via email prior to the meeting. CH welcomed members to familiarise themselves with previous minutes. Any amendments could be raised and discussed with Natalie Cox (NC).

**3. WHSF Promotion:** Andrew Davies (AD) questioned the group about how they would like to take the WHSF forward into the future. Changes to the committee are due and members were made aware of the types of roles that were on offer. Any prospective forum members who wish to take up any of these roles are to apply by emailing NC. Voting for roles is to commence at the next meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July. CH stated that the roles are open for review as there is too much structure currently. If the forum becomes bigger, then a larger committee would be needed. AD said that having a Chair, Vice and a Secretary are a must and that all other roles are to be discussed among the forum. The points of contact need to be made clearer to facilitate better communication.

It was discussed that the overall effectiveness of the WHSF promotional banners was poor and there is scope to develop new ones. The idea behind having banners is that they could be used during conferences and also to drum up business by attracting new members to the forum. A team is required to help develop the new style banners. 5-7 students were asked to forward their names to express interest in being filmed and/or photographed in their placement areas. This may help to show that the NHS is more than just Doctors and Nurses. If anybody has and photographs of anything related to the WHSF they are asked to forward these to NC to be potentially used. The banners could be made available in Welsh medium too. AD said that in order to expand the WHSF, all MDT members must be involved. To go through the Deans is the best option in order to gain a bigger following. CH stated that it was difficult to get students enthused during the first week. A change of tack is needed and there may be an option to have a timetabled tutorial to show students what the WHSF is all about. AD can make goody bags available and said that it would be beneficial for the Deans to understand how important the forum is as it is an additional skill to include on a student's CV to improve chances of job selection.

The video will show briefly what the WHSF is all about and would be ideal to be shown during fresher's week. Yiannoula Bradbury-Poulakis (YBP) asked what the timescale would be. AD said that this will be discussed among any interested parties and that permission must also be sought from the placement area. CH added that the video needs to be completed in time for the new academic year and for the conference to aid recruitment.

**4. WHSF website:** The forum members were asked to write a testimonial for the WHSF website to tell students what the forum does. Topics for each paragraph are as follows; What the forum has been working on, What the member has been involved in, and how being a representative has made a positive impact on their student experience. YBP volunteered to write a paragraph and other members were encouraged to follow suit.

Members are encouraged to develop an online footprint through the social media route namely via Facebook and Twitter to access a wider audience. It was asked if a Facebook group could be utilised for each course/university. The forum was in agreement that any group should be as one and should not segregate other professions. It was unknown to many members that there is a current online group that was set up for members to share resources. Names are to be taken and invited to join. Reps deliberated on how information could be shared. Documents and links could be shared on Facebook. This was the role of the Policy and Publications Officer but this role was not used to its full effect. Dawn Morgan (DM) offered to collect names to be added to the group. Part of the registration process could be to automatically add new members to the online group, however this would need a member of WEDS to be an administrator to oversee.

It was also raised that there was a poor turnout for the most recent conference subgroup meeting with only 2 members in attendance. Members are encouraged to join this group to ensure its success. A member of the subgroup is also requested to write a short paragraph about the conference which is to be uploaded onto the website. DT to send request for members looking to join. CH is looking to promote the conference now as there was a "mad dash" to get people to attend the last conference – even though it proved to be a very popular event. Students can submit a poster of what their role is which can be displayed at the conference. Both external speakers and students are required for the conference and everybody will be considered.

**5. NHS Wales Careers:** We were joined by Sharon Jenkins who works within the careers service. With 350 professions in NHS Wales, it is a suitable employer for many around the UK. Attracting school leavers is one challenge that faces NHS Wales. One highlighted issue is the current state of the website. It needs updating and Sharon asked that if anybody was interested in forming a subgroup to assist, any help would be appreciated. Forum members will be key to ideas regarding social media and could be part of interviews. Sharon told of one idea that can be used whereby a person potentially seeking employment and looking to gain more of an insight can be assisted by a "buddy". They are suitably matched with a professional person within their field of interest to give them some frontline experience of the job. In April, work experience within NHS Wales is to stop. This means that less school pupils are able to sample the work of the NHS, therefore reducing the likelihood that

they will choose NHS Wales as their future employer. AD stated that more work is required with the school's own careers service as their knowledge of the various roles within NHS Wales are limited. Sharon said that if forum members are able to assist in any upcoming jobs fairs then please make yourselves known.

**6. 'Your Say':** AD started with wanting to know how the current job situation is once qualifying. Daniel Tully (DT) said that applications for nursing in Betsi are welcomed 6 months prior to qualification. AD gave a warning to students to not be in breach of bursary rules. Some students can get caught out by receiving their first month's pay when still receiving a bursary. As a precaution it is good practice to call the bursary hotline to confirm that the bursary is no longer required.

One issue with dentistry is that there are 1200 students for 800 jobs, meaning that some students have to wait until next year's intake. Physiologists report a similar story. Wales has become saturated with qualified staff with many needing to go to London to seek employment. AD is looking into providing jobs for all funded students by training the right amount of people. The problem arises when services and their demands change, so the need for professionals can alter. The issue with this is that it is difficult to figure out. Jenna Keenan (JK) said that dentistry itself is rather elitist and there is not much in the way of advertising dentistry by Cardiff University. Students from the local community prefer to go elsewhere to study. Placements are student-driven and the more privileged go to faraway lands for placements whereas others are left with no option but to practice locally.

Another issue highlighted by the forum is the means-tested bursary system leaving many out of pocket as they cannot fund even the simplest of lifestyles. AD said that the new BOSS program has an online calculator that student will be able to predict the bursary that will be available to them. There is a clear need for students to be aware of this information before they embark on a 3+ year course. The forum believes that a set salaried bursary that is non-means tested will be fairer for all. Tim Nagle (TN) said that bursaries change so much. During open days, when asked about bursaries, he is unsure of what to say as the bursary is different for all. AD said that it may be possible to meet Martin Riley to bring about correspondence between NHS bursaries and student finance to discover a baseline liveable minimum wage.

**7. Good News:** AD wanted to know if there was any good news to share among the forum. Jonathan Cliffe (JC) came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Journal Awards and has been shortlisted or the student midwife of the year. A group of representatives are going to a celebration day. Other members had been to Holland for an occupational wellbeing conference. Others attended a stroke survivor's conference.

**8. Health Inspectorate Wales:** Alison Kedward, clinical director of HIW spoke HIW's independence of the Welsh Government and its work with processes and policies. This year their focus is to improve their own knowledge to assist them in inspecting. All inspections are unannounced and an operational plan is due this year that will set a minimum of how many inspections are to be done. Recommendations are derived from inspections and there was real learning from the Mid-Staffs review. Alison said that it was the case in Mid-Staffs that the business grew and grew and forgot about patient care. There are three lines of defence for patient care: 1) Policies and

procedures to give good patient care. 2) An assurance system and 3) Having a watchdog to oversee.

During an inspection, peers from the particular background being investigated are in attendance and also a lay reviewer. Staff and patients are told of what is going on and feedback is given to the ward leader and people within management. They look for good and bad practice. The idea being is that any bad practice is highlighted and fed around the health board so interventions can be put in place. Inspection publications are available online and recognition is given to those who exceed standards. Urgent action letters are sent with regards to clinical areas that fall below the standard. This allows the area to be aware of the ongoing issue and allows them to action a change.

#### **9. Ideas for Future Meetings:**

- Students to talk about their own roles.
- Welsh speaking workshop.
- Committee roles and their existence to be decided.
- North Wales meetings – Can prove costly.
- The forum is open to suggestions from members about who can be a guest speaker.
- CH can bring in speakers about learning disabilities.
- Deaf society can be involved.

**10. Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at the SWALEC stadium, Cardiff.

**11. Close:** CH thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.

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<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action Point</b>	<b>To Be Actioned By:</b>
3	Names needed for students looking to be featured on WHSF promotional media.	DT
4	Collect names to add to the current Facebook group.	DM
4	Email to be sent to all members to encourage a larger conference subgroup.	DT