

WHSF Quarterly Meeting

SWALEC Stadium, Cardiff

Oct 10th 2014

Welcome and introductions

Claire Harris (CH) began the meeting welcoming colleagues and inviting introductions. CH outlined the importance of the forum as a networking platform across Wales and England; especially in preparation for the creation of a future single body of Welsh healthcare (HC) services/team. Sandy Harding (SH) talked about the role of WEDS and outlined the agenda for the day.

Rhiannon – Director of nursing introduced herself with a brief history of her career to date. She spoke on the importance of understanding the scholarships available in Wales, giving interesting diverse examples.

(R) made the strong statement to say, 'how the future responsibility of HC professionals will be to inspire the community of the NHS services'.

How to change the balance between primary and secondary care

The HC must review this as the secondary care provided to date is not sustainable long term.

- **To be aware of the importance of questions between the customer and the provider.**
- **HC to be mindful of shared objectives**, e.g. hearing loss. Q. would the customer be striving for total hearing? A. Maybe not necessarily for an elderly patient.

Population increase statistics

With the state of the nation's population increasing and with Wales having higher statistics of 65+ year olds, thought must be to interventions and cost in providing HC. 22% of children live in poverty and adult life expectations vary up to 19 years, interventions need to be in place to target inequality.

Cancer statistics

Stop smoking campaign rates in a few areas of Wales were trailing behind on achievement. They were not reaching targets for quitting. Further initiatives were being rolled out, but the circumstances of a HC professional mentor being an active smoker with no indication to quitting was noted to be damaging to the public perception and uncomfortable for a patient.

E-cigarettes were discussed as being a danger of becoming a cult with young adults. The NHS were documented as having no support to the e-cigarette usage, albeit being a 'healthier' option to the cigarette, it was not a healthy option to take against to stop smoking. Various support options were discussed as were the reporting methods.

Alcohol awareness

Mixed marketing messages need to be clarified by the NHS. HC professionals should give thought to the roles they were within and to bring about changes where necessary as the alcohol statistics showed to be on the increase.

NHS Social responsibilities

What can the NHS create a new social awareness around? I.e. focus on diet, increasing activity and healthy eating.

- **Diet.** Currently mixed messages being portrayed, needs standardising. Question whether we have communicated well with creating role models in the community as statistics of obese children in Wales are running high.
- **Screening sensitivities.** Patients of trans. gender, those with learning difficulties and sensory loss are leading on testing requirements; here, the relationship of trust needs to be created. Bowel cancer testing in Wales is proving difficult requiring much improvement in communication of the instructions and so of quality.

Increasing the quality of life

How can the NHS do this?

- **Target high risk areas / areas of deprivation or seldom heard.** Screening uptake proves difficult to complete. How can this be improved? Success here has been made with programmes, e.g. Initiatives for free vitamins, fruit and vegetables; Community champion delivering messages. Note to language used, this should be positive and not negative to encourage participation.
- **Education.** The health care profession has now decided what is right for the public, now is the time to work with the customers we are trying to support. Health professionals should help the public to think more broadly with education and so creating sustainable training.

Community health public bodies

Protect yourselves in front line positions.

- **Antibiotics & immunisations.**

HCAI

Rate remains high proving a challenging area for all.

Finance

The NHS has less – to do more.

- **Three year plan.** Better evaluation needed.
- **Quality.** Improvement training / departments to listen.
- **Innovative and abled.** Encouragement to speak up. Note. Concerns on the challenges a student may have when suggesting a change / idea in the workplace. Resistance, reputation, and singling out reported. Solutions suggested including following a project Student Quality in England have created to support student initiatives. SH discussed a similar joint project pending approval in Wales.

Team building day

SH to arrange for the near future.

Clinical placements

SH advised a clinical database of placements in Wales is currently being developed. Suggestion given that students and mentors need more communication on methods and availability etc.

Alcohol Brief Intervention day (ABI) Training

SH confirmed this is arranged for Jan 9th 2015 where a certificate of training will be awarded. Literature with details will be circulated shortly.

Motivation on interviewing skills event

SH advised that details would be confirmed.

Career Wales day

SH - Message of the event - 'to change the myth that only doctors are required to work in the NHS' Success of the day was praised with thanks to SJ.

SQT, Liverpool

SH commented on the success of the recent visit, advising places for the next visit will be limited for up to 4 students only.

Mental Health Conference, Cardiff

Date confirmed of Jan 9th 2014. Topics include alcohol misuse and its harms. Those presenting at the event will include:

- A PHD student
- Allied Health professional bodies – to present alcohol misuse in professional bodies
- HMPC and the MMC

Workshops and Public Health training will also be available, with details circulated shortly.

Forum Updates

The Wales Health Student Forum

The On-line Communications Advisor spoke on improving the tools available to increase the member numbers. Discussion held with committee members and the student forum on improving the profile and on social awareness regularity improvement.

- Advised there is a new marketing presentation available for forum member use in recruiting new members.
- Highlighted the need for courses to be fully represented across Wales.
- Advised the mission statement was revised.
- To highlight the conference timetable posted showing fortnightly meetings
- To note a new monthly profile of degree awareness
- To note a new three month timetable to be created

WEDS Communications

Communications Manager, WEDS, confirmed the online support WEDS would provide.

The Role of the Forum

SH welcomed new members present and spoke on the importance of the forum with examples of successful changes made to processes to date.

e.g. of the forums support to make a change for OGP students given. Different Health Boards were giving different funding. This has been auctioned - funding is now determined on food allowances, etc. across universities.

SH spoke on the importance of the forum member's actions was highlighted being not only for themselves but 'for the future of all students who follow.'

Bangor Forum

Actions included: promotions have been updated; the success of the Student Midwife Society launch; the creation of a new drop-in session for promotion including webcast.

Cardiff Forum

Actions included: to target new members from other disciplines – med. students proving difficult and so communications to Head of Med. School have been attempted for representation and to improve awareness; Dentistry Heads contacted for support also.

It was reported that the students were very happy to have been given the clinical placement sub-group for the 1st time in advance. This was suggested this was thanks to WEDS.

Glyndwr Forum

Actions included: the addition of new members to be undertaken later in the year when more appropriate. Issues on funding causing confusion was questioned, from being funded or self funded.

Swansea Forum

Actions included: Induction days used to promote the forum undertaken; to gain dialogue with other disciplines currently not supported; communications needed to keep Swansea buoyant.

SW Forum

Actions included: to revisit the second year students. First year students reported as to having showed some interest in joining.