**Spring Conference 2021**

**Put Recovery First - A Caring Recovery for Wales**

**Proposed by:** Policy Development Committee

**Conference records** its deep sorrow at the suffering and loss of life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, both at home and abroad; the toll has been disproportionately high within the most deprived communities, as well as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

**Conference pays tribute** to the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices made by NHS and care workers and many others during this crisis.

**Conference notes:**

1. The stark reality highlighted by the pandemic that health outcomes are determined by poverty, inequality, location, and social background.
2. That despite considerable expenditure, our healthcare system and social care system have long been underfunded, leaving them unprepared for the public health crisis we have experienced.
3. The importance of ensuring that our health and care systems and the people who work in them are supported to recover from the impact of the Coronavirus crisis, and ensure that those whose care has been delayed as a result of the pandemic are able to access the care they need.
4. That the Coronavirus pandemic has been traumatic for many, exacerbating inequalities which contribute to poor health and wellbeing, including isolation and loneliness.

**Conference further notes:**

1. The trauma that people across Wales are experiencing, and the impact on their mental health.
2. The vital importance of making healthcare access easier for people.
3. The positive impact of the Nurse Staffing Levels Act in delivering safe and effective care.

**Conference believes:**

1. That our recovery from the coronavirus pandemic must take into account ways to improve wellbeing and public health, and look to invest in interventions and measures that keep people healthy.
2. That we are yet to achieve parity between mental and physical health, and that more should be done to tackle stigma, improve access to services, and recognise the trauma the Coronavirus pandemic has caused.
3. That we need to revolutionise social care, providing an increase in funding so that the workforce is paid better, and ensuring that people have faith that the care system will be sustainable for years to come.
4. That prevention is better than cure. We must continue efforts to improve joint working across public services to better prevent ill health and to support people to lead healthy lives.

**Conference resolves to campaign for a health and social care system that provides person-centred care, rooted in communities, with high-quality, well-funded support, delivered by well-paid and fully trained professionals, and to bring forward policies that:**

1. **Create a step-change in our approach to mental health, providing parity of esteem with physical health, which:**
   1. Increases the share of NHS funding for mental health by 2% by 2028/29.
   2. Takes a holistic approach to the social factors and root causes of poor mental health and wellbeing, ensuring that people have access to a range of support services both professional and community-led, ending the reliance on medicalisation.
   3. Ensures that community-based first responders throughout our country are trained to understand trauma, mental health, and other issues, so that they can deliver high-quality support when and where they are needed.
   4. Establishes a cross-government and public-service strategy which champions mental health services, including non-medical interventions, and which identifies the resources needed to address failures in the system.
2. **Create a supportive environment in which staff are valued, empowered, and have the tools to deliver for patients by:**
   1. Extending the Nurse Staffing Levels Act to community nursing, mental health nursing inpatient care, and children’s wards.
   2. Creating a single ‘Occupational Health Passport’ for all health and care workers, ensuring that all staff have access to the support and advice they need.
   3. Support workforces to keep learning and training, including by granting them protected time.
   4. Working with experts across health and social care to roll out, wider than ever before, multidisciplinary teams that will work with people when they need it, in GPs, pharmacies, hospitals, and other care settings.
3. **Reform our social care system so that patients and staff are treated with dignity and compassion by:**
   1. Equalising pay and conditions across the NHS and social care sectors, ensuring that all care workers are paid the Real Living Wage.
   2. Using budgeting, commissioning, and the strategic deployment of workforces to encourage and drive collaboration between the NHS and Social Care.
   3. Streamlining social care services and practices, working towards the creation of a single National Care Service, and setting out a long-term plan for the integration of health and care in Wales.
   4. Exploring the implementation of the recommendations made by the Holtham Commission to build a social care system that is sustainable, and has intergenerational fairness, committing to a positive decision within a year.
   5. Implementing wide-ranging changes to commissioning, giving more power to local commissioners, and to people themselves to source their own services.
   6. Introducing a moratorium on private for-profit contracts in specific areas of the care system, including children’s residential care and learning disability secure units, as well as a review of the wider process.
4. **Support unpaid carers by ensuring that systems work properly and seamlessly so that carers’ rights become a reality and they get the support they deserve by:**
   1. Maximising the financial support and income of carers, and lobbying the UK Government to to provide a meaningful increase of the Carer’s Allowance.
   2. Increasing awareness of the contribution unpaid carers make, and ensure they have access to information, advice and support about their legal rights and entitlements contained in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.
   3. Introducing a new duty on the NHS to identify carers and to promote their health and wellbeing.
   4. Increasing the level and range of support available to carers at the local level.
5. **Use digital and technological solutions to increase efficiency and accessibility by:**
   1. Giving patients greater control over their care by introducing a single electronic health records across all health and care providers.
   2. Making it easier to get an appointment with your GP by introducing measures to facilitate online booking of appointments and transfer between GPs, and rolling out electronic prescriptions across Wales.
   3. Ensure people have access to specialist support wherever they are, by continuing investment in telemedicine services, including for abortion advice.
6. **Introduce a Right to Rehabilitation that ensures everyone has access to rehabilitation services as a matter of course, including access to community-based services and technology to help self-manage their conditions.**
7. **Prioritise prevention and encourage healthy living by:**
   1. Introducing a Clean Air Act to clean up the air we breathe.
   2. Investing in active travel and adopting the principles of 20-minute communities.
   3. Promoting good nutrition and improving access to healthy food.
   4. Ensuring that everyone has access to a safe, accessible and warm home.
8. **Improve planning and leadership at a national level to support a system that cares for people at their time of need by:**
   1. Establishing shared national priorities to ensure patients receive appropriate care in the right place and at the right time.
   2. Developing a culture that encourages staff learning and progression through a Wales-wide National Executive and National Primary Care Board.
   3. Improving political decision-making and transparency for staffing levels, so clinicians can focus on care and their services.

### Amendments:

### Amendment 1 - Cardiff and the Vale

*Conference Resolves 1, insert E:*

“e. The creation of a Mental Health Commissioner for Wales.  An independent voice for individuals to champion their needs and advocate on their behalf.”

### Amendment 2 - Cardiff and the Vale

*Conference Resolves 1. Insert F:*

“f.Improved access and choice in psychological therapies underpinned with greater investment and more targeted support for those who have suffered most through the pandemic due to inequalities.”

### Amendment 3 - Cardiff and the Vale

*Conference Resolves 1. Insert G:*

“g. Funding for tiered bereavement support specifically designed to support people who have lost loved ones to Covid-19 or have been bereaved during the pandemic restrictions.”

### Amendment 4 - Cardiff and the Vale

*Conference Resolves 1, insert H:*

“h**.** Free relationship counselling to lower-income families facing distress from the impact of the pandemic.”

### Amendment 5 - Cardiff and the Vale

*Insert new Conference Resolves 9.*

“A commitment to Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People within Wales.”

### Amendment 6 - Welsh Young Liberals

Insert at the end of conference calls for 5c

“and the Welsh Gender Service”

### Amendment 7 - Monmouthshire and Torfaen

Insert after “Conference further notes 3.”:

4. The huge benefit provided to the fight against Covid by former NHS employees called up during the Covid pandemic to provide urgent health care.

Insert after “Conference believes D.”:

E. That we need to learn from what has worked well during Covid, and consider how to best redeploy and manage NHS workers to help future pressures and ‘crunch points’ in patient care.

Insert after “Conference resolves” 8 (B), and before 8(C), and re-order appropriately:

b. Creating a ‘Territorial Army’ for the Welsh NHS, where people are retained on 12.5% of the cost of a full-time wage, offered regular training to maintain skills, and called in during the winter months, or in other periods of crisis.