

ASH Wales Press Release: December 18th 2006

New Management Team for ASH Wales

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) in Wales has appointed a new Chairperson and new Director to start in 2007. Professor Steven Tomlinson will take over the role of Chairperson from Dr Norman Mills. Dr Mills is retiring after six years as Chairperson. Ms Tanya Buchanan takes on the role of Director, replacing the retiring Ms Naomi King.

Ms King said:

Professor Tomlinson and Ms Buchanan are taking on their roles at a very exciting time. The proposed legislation to ban smoking in public places due to come into effect next year is a big change for tobacco use in Wales. However, there is still much to be done to reduce the ill health and deaths caused by tobacco use.

Professor Tomlinson, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Wales College of Medicine and currently Provost at Cardiff University has a long and distinguished record as a physician, researcher and leader. Professor Tomlinson says he is delighted to be involved with ASH:

There is no doubt that smoking is still the main cause of premature death and disability in Wales. Over 6000 people still die in Wales as a result of their smoking and I look forward to doing whatever I can to reduce this figure.

Ms Buchanan takes over from Ms King who has held the role of Director for more than twenty years. Ms Buchanan has moved to Wales this year from Australia where she has worked extensively in health, social services and education. Ms Buchanan said:

I am extremely pleased to be working with ASH Wales. ASH is a bold campaigner working to reduce the ill health effects of tobacco use and has been at the forefront of tobacco issues in Wales since 1976. With more than a quarter of the adult population of Wales smoking there is still a lot of work to be done.

The Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Tony Jewell welcomed the announcement of both Professor Tomlinson's and Ms Buchanan's appointments.

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