



## ***Together for Health: A Five Year Vision for the NHS in Wales***

The Royal College of Surgeons welcomes the production of a Wales Health Strategy, and supports the Strategy aims and aspirations. It is clear that the Welsh Government and the College share a number of goals, and can work together to achieve these by incorporating professional expertise in the Strategy delivery.

The College is a professional body with a remit covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We are able to provide the Welsh Government with clinical advice across all surgical specialties through our Wales Professional Affairs Board.

The College strongly supports the Strategy principles of evidence-based improvement on issues such as reconfiguration, integration of care, workforce development, commissioning of procedures and national audit participation - all with an ultimate goal of better outcomes for patients.

There is little specific reference to the surgical specialities in the Strategy document. We realise the document serves as an overview but would emphasise the vital and innovative role of surgery in managing acute and chronic conditions. In the strategic context of reducing dependence on hospital care, it will be essential to ensure that patients have access to the most appropriate specialist services.

We look forward to the publication of the specific details of the strategy in the coming year and being able to work with the Welsh Government for the development of the Welsh Health Service Strategy. We look forward to the Quality Delivery Plan as we have had some concerns about the lack of investment and infrastructure with respect to surgical research and development. We are also particularly interested in the Major Service Delivery Plans and the Workforce and Organisation Development Framework, and hope to receive these documents for comment in due course.

Miss Sue Hill (Chair of the RCS Welsh Board)  
Mr Colin Ferguson (Wales Director of Professional Affairs, RCS)  
February 2012