

February 2021

The Social Partnership Forum brings together NHS Employers, NHS trade unions, Health Education England (HEE), NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to contribute to the development and implementation of policy that impacts on the health workforce.

Supporting our staff: a toolkit to promote civility and respect

In January, NHSEI launched [a toolkit](#), helping NHS organisations to promote a culture of civility and respect in the workplace. The National SPF was involved in the development of its toolkit.

Just and learning culture

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust has developed online learning modules on establishing a just and learning culture in an organisation. These are free for all of the NHS to use. Read the full case study on the [SPF website](#) and access the four learning modules.

National Guardian training

The National Guardian's Office, in association with Health Education England, has launched the [second module of its new e-learning package](#) for managers at all levels to support them to foster a speaking up culture in their teams.

Vaccination Programme workshop – 20 January

In response to requests from partners, the SPF organised a standalone briefing on the vaccination programme, which took place on 20 January 2021. Dr Jonathan Leach, programme medical director for COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, Professor Wei Shen Lim, member of the Joint Committee on Vaccine and Immunisation, Mark Radford, chief nurse at HEE, and Thomas Simons, chief HR & OD officer at NHSEI, joined the group to update on the programme and address questions and concerns raised by partners.

Read [key comms](#) from the briefing.

Infection prevention control (IPC)

The national SPF has been in correspondence with Dr Susan Hopkins, Test and Trace and PHE Joint Medical Advisor and Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS England regarding infection prevention control and use of personal protective equipment in response to the new variant of the Coronavirus. See the [SPF website](#) for more information.

Call for health and social care staff to contact their host NHS employer for a COVID-19 jab

The NHS vaccination programme, the biggest in health service history, is off to a strong start with millions of people having been vaccinated across the country thanks to the tireless efforts of many colleagues. A huge number of health and social care staff have already been vaccinated, but those members of staff (including those working for sub-contracted providers) yet to receive their vaccine are [now asked to speak to their host NHS employer](#) about arranging their jab which is safe, simple and offers crucial protection against the virus.

Guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable staff

NHS Employers is receiving an increasing number of queries over the position of clinically extremely vulnerable staff after they have been vaccinated. To clarify - Government [guidance](#) states that even if clinically vulnerable staff have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, they should continue to follow shielding advice, which includes advice relating to working arrangements. For more information, see the NHS Employers supporting our most vulnerable people [web page](#).

SPF members' Handbook

The SPF has published an updated [members' handbook](#) for 2021. This handbook for new members of the National SPF explains the purpose of the SPF, the role of partners and how a member of the forum can get involved to support it achieve its aims.

COVID-19 Engagement group – 9 February

Mark Radford, HEE, and Tom Simons, NHSEI, joined to update on the vaccination programme, and to answer questions from the group around this. Rebecca Smith, NHS Employers, and Sara Gorton, UNISON, discussed SPF correspondence on IPC (more information above).

COVID-19 Engagement Group – 26 January

Mark Radford, HEE, and Thomas Simons, NHSEI, joined the group to update on key issues surrounding the vaccination programme. Dido Harding, NHS Test and Trace programme, gave a presentation on the impact of the programme to date, and answered questions from the group.

Strategic Group – 20 January

Lynne Winstanley, NHSEI, joined to update on the workforce cell and work programme. Gareth Thomas, NHSX, joined to present on the importance of digital technology in the NHS and how this has developed during the pandemic. John Drew, NHSEI, updated on strategy for delivery of the NHS People Plan.

Workforce Issues Group – January & February meetings

Emma Turner, NHSEI, continued engagement with the group at both meetings in the development of a revised version of NHSEI's Enabling staff movement toolkit, she also updated on the progress and the roll out of the [COVID-19 digital staff movement passport](#). At the January meeting, Adam Turner, NHSEI, joined to engage the group on the redesign of the [health and wellbeing framework](#), and Tom Grimes, NHSEI, spoke on the recruitment of freedom to speak up guardians. Steve Lee, NHSEI, joined the February meeting to engage on health and wellbeing support for NHS staff over the next couple of years.

SPF Comms Review

Many thanks to all who participated in the SPF communications review survey in November 2020. The SPF team and communication leads have developed a set of recommendations and actions to improve SPF communications based on feedback received in the survey. This review has helped the SPF secure funding to redevelop our website, and address many of the points raised. Look out for our new and improved website later this year!

Celebrate International Women's Day

On Monday 8 March, Prerana Issar, NHS chief people officer and Samantha Allen, chair of the NHS Confederation's Health & Care Women Leaders Network, will co-host a virtual celebration to mark International Women's Day 2021. The event is free to attend and is open to women and their allies in health and care whatever their role, grade, ethnicity, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation. Find out more and register for your [free place now](#).

Survey - impact of COVID-19 on staff working in health and care sectors

The NHS Confederation and Health and Care Women Leaders Network have launched a new survey to gather information on the impact of COVID-19 on all health and care workers as they continue to respond to the pandemic. All staff are encouraged to complete the survey which will take no longer than 5 to 10 minutes. The survey closes on 5 March 2021.

For latest resources and guidance on the COVID-19 vaccination programme, visit the [NHSEI website](#), and find resources and guidance to help workforce leaders in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on the [NHS Employers website](#).

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