

April 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.

### **SPF Conference - Positive partnership working through COVID and beyond**

On 31 March 2021, we held our National SPF conference, which focused on positive partnership working during the pandemic, and its impact on equality, diversity and inclusion. This was the first virtual partnership conference, bringing together representatives from the national and regional SPFs with workforce leaders and management/HR and trade union representatives from NHS organisations.

See the [summary and highlights](#) from the day.

### **HPMA awards 2021**

The Social Partnership Forum is once again sponsoring the HPMA award for partnership working between employers and trade unions. If you have an example of successful partnership working in your organisation, enter the awards and share your success.

The closing date for entries is 25 May 2021 at 5pm. Good luck!

[Enter the HPMA Awards 2021](#)

### **NHS Employers survey on staff networks**

NHS Employers have launched a survey and series of workshops aimed at HR professionals, staff network chairs and trade union representatives to better understand how employers work with trade unions to support staff networks.

Find out more about the [survey and workshops](#)

### **Staff support during Ramadan**

12 April saw the beginning of the month of Ramadan, which is due to end around 12 May. This year, Ramadan will take place during the 'road map' out of national lockdown, and NHS Employers has produced a [guide to workplace considerations](#) for line managers and employees during this month.

### National Healthcare Uniform - Have your say

NHS Supply Chain has launched a seven-week consultation on a proposed consistent uniform for healthcare professionals working in the NHS.

They want to hear views from the following clinical staff:

- healthcare assistants
- nurses
- midwives
- allied health professionals
- their representative bodies.

Staff can have their say [here](#).

The consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 31 May 2021.

### SPF COVID-19 Engagement Group 20 April

Tom Simons, NHSEI and Dr Jonathan Leach, NHSEI, updated on the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, which continues to progress well with high uptake amongst staff. The group held an open discussion on matters arising related to the pandemic, including support for women on [vaccination during pregnancy](#). For the 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](#).

### Workforce Issues Group (WIG) meeting 14 April

Deborah McKenzie, chief people officer at Public Health England (PHE), joined the WIG to engage the group on the [PHE transition programme](#) and the implications for staff. Laura Tyrrell, programme manager at NHSEI, updated on the [wellbeing support](#) being offered to staff who have been affected by the pandemic. The group also heard from Steve Boorman who is supporting NHSEI's NHS aspirational occupational health programme, which is in its early stages.

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