

The Social Partnership Forum brings together NHS Employers, NHS trade unions, NHS England, Health Education England and the Department of Health to debate the development and implementation of the workforce implications of policy

SPF Strategic Group

The latest SPF Strategic Group meeting was held on 11 June 2014. Discussions centred on [7-day Services](#), [NHS finances](#), [CSUs](#) and safe staffing, with updates on HEE's National Workforce Plan and the NHS 10-year vision. It was agreed that early adopter sites for 7-day services should be mapped against regional SPFs with a view to them working together through problems and sharing best practice. A positive story is developing around CSUs. Ongoing work on safe staffing needed greater focus on environment, leadership, multi-disciplinary working, and Talent for Care, rather than simple nurse to patient ratios. The SPF will explore the possibility of a 'change compact' and links with social care as part of the workforce elements of the NHS 10-year vision.

Subgroup updates:

Staff Passport Subgroup (SPG)

The SPG has played a vital role in providing clarity on New Fair Deal and, working with HM Treasury, has produced a set of FAQs about the application of New Fair Deal in the NHS for independent providers. These include information on which staff would be covered by New Fair Deal and the implications on independent providers where staff in the NHS Pension Scheme transfer to their organisation. The SPG has also produced guidance about the application of 'access' to the NHS Pension Scheme for independent providers who employ staff working on NHS clinical contracts who have not been directly transferred from the NHS. For more information, see the [SPG web page](#).

Embedding Partnership Working Group (EPWG)

Members of the national SPF have been attending regional SPF meetings. As well as hearing about the good work happening around the country, we learned about the progress made since the 2013 Stocktake Event. We also carried out an online survey to enable regional reps to feedback views on their SPF, the national SPF and how they work together. The [EPWG](#) will use the information to produce a 2014 SPF Stocktake report on developments since 2013.

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Raising concerns

To promote the importance of staff raising concerns, NHS Employers worked with their partners on the SPF to produce posters, published in May, to encourage staff to raise concerns when they are aware of a risk, wrong doing or malpractice in their organisation. See the [Whistleblowing web page](#) for more information on raising concerns and whistleblowing and a link to download the posters.

Partnership Working case study

The latest SPF case study is on the development of the North West Social Partnership Forum and its role in bringing partners together to discuss ongoing transformational change in the NHS in the North West of England. To read the case study in full please visit the [SPF website](#).

Sustainable Development Unit consultation

In January 2014 the Sustainable Development Unit launched the [Sustainable Development Strategy for the NHS, public health and social care system 2014-2020](#). To support the delivery of the strategy a suite of [five supporting modules](#) were launched at the same time. In the Leadership, engagement and workforce development module, a statement from Dean Royles and Christina McAnea highlights the importance of partnership forums for discussing and implementing sustainable development strategies. The SDU is now consulting on three additional supporting modules: an integrated metrics approach, innovation technology and R&D and creating social value. The consultation runs from 30 May - 31 August 2014. Click [here](#) to access the consultation documents and to respond.

Values Based Recruitment (VBR) newsletter

The SPF discussed the importance of VBR in the Francis Subgroup and want to highlight that Health Education England has produced a VBR newsletter, which provides updates on the developments in the VBR programme. Following the success of the first newsletter, the second one is available to download [here](#). The SPF Strategic Group is due to discuss VBR as a main agenda item in September.

Care Act consultation

The Care Act 2014 contains the core legal duties and powers relating to adult social care. The draft regulations and guidance on part 1 of the Care Act are under consultation until the 15 August 2014. More information about the consultation and the guidance can be accessed [here](#). SPF members are encouraged to contribute views to the consultation.

NHS Constitution

There has been a recent [updated publication](#) in respect of the NHS Constitution further to the Expert Advisory Group's recommendations on how to make the NHS Constitution more practical and meaningful for patients. The SPF will be further engaging with this piece of work at the next National SPF wider group meeting in July.

We are keen to include examples of good partnership working from regional or local SPFs on our website. If you have examples of good practice or case studies that you think would be useful to share with SPF colleagues, please send details in an email marked 'good practice' to: webenquiries@socialpartnershipforum.org

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