

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 Wider Group

The SPF Wider Group meeting on 8 July, chaired by Health Minister Dr Dan Poulter, featured updates on Francis, NHS sustainable development, and workforce issues. Members of the North of England Regional Partnership updated on their work. Ian Cumming (HEE) introduced a video on genomics and there were discussion items on whistleblowing (led by MENCAP), the Greenaway (Shape of Training) Report, Talent for Care and the [SPF Learning for Life campaign](#). The SPF 2014 Stocktake Report was ratified and written reports were shared on the NHS Constitution and BME representation in leadership roles. The Minister and members of the wider SPF recorded their thanks to Dean Royles (NHS Employers SPF chair) for his contribution to the success of SPF over the last four years as he moves on to pastures new. See the [Key Comms](#) from the meeting.

SPF Staff Engagement Guidance

The Government's response to the Francis Inquiry report 'Hard Truths' requested the SPF produce guidance to support staff engagement in the NHS. This has now been published and is available on the SPF website: [SPF Guidance on Staff Engagement and Partnership Working](#). This document builds on the [six key messages](#), identified by the SPF and featured in the 'Hard Truths' report, to help the NHS build on its strengths and develop positive working environments.

Independent Whistleblowing Review

Following a discussion at the SPF Wider Group, partners will engage closely in the independent review '[Freedom to speak up](#)', chaired by Sir Robert Francis QC, into creating an open and honest reporting culture in the NHS. See our [whistleblowing web page](#) for guidance on raising concerns and encouraging an open environment in the NHS.

Partnership working with safety reps

Newly published joint national guidance on local partnership working on health and safety has been produced by the NHS Staff Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Partnership subgroup. The publication builds on the SPF's Francis key messages, looks at the importance of partnership working on safety issues and is available on our [key messages web page](#).

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Winner of 2014 HPMa Partnership Award

The SPF sponsored the annual Healthcare People Management Association (HPMA) award for partnership working with trade unions, to identify, reward and promote excellent partnership working. The annual awards ceremony was held on 26 June. The winner of the award was the Business Services Organisation and Trade Unions, for their partnership project designed to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender inclusive workplaces. For more information on the finalists and winner of the Partnership Award see our [case studies web page](#).

Dalton Review into new options for providers of NHS care

In February 2014, the Secretary of State for Health asked Sir David Dalton to lead a review and report back recommendations in October on what “we need to do to enable our best hospital leaders to take over the running of hospitals in difficulty without compromising the success of their own trusts”.

Sir David said he hoped the [review](#) would reinforce “the need to create a system of consequence where successful organisations are rewarded and encouraged to spread their learning, their improvement and success into other areas”.

SPF Co-Chairs Christina McAnea, Staff Side and Dean Royles, NHS Employers, met Sir David in June about his review and are encouraging members to respond.

Subgroup updates:

Staff Passport Subgroup (SPG)

The [Staff Passport Group](#) has been involved in early thinking around Monitor’s national tariff 2015/16 specifically around quality standards linking with staff satisfaction. They have begun work on refreshing the SPF Staff Transfer Guide, formally known as the Staff Passport Toolkit. They have also engaged with the Health Reform evaluation programme (HREP), as well as Chris Ham’s review of mutuals. The SPG consulted on Monitor’s research on non-financial and financial incentives in the health sector.

Embedding Partnership Working Group (EPWG)

The EPWG led the work of the regional SPF Stocktake. The [2014 Stocktake report](#) has been signed off and is available on the SPF website. The SPF Communications Toolkit, developed by the EPWG, supports partners’ promotion of the SPF and partnership working, through their own communication channels. These resources, which include: a conference handout; a selection of case study handouts; a key messages document; a PowerPoint presentation; and SPF banner stands are due to be refreshed. If you have any questions or would like to make use of the Toolkit resources, please contact: webenquiries@socialpartnershipforum.org

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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