

## Historic Learning Agreement signing with NHS Property Services

NHS Property Services was set up by the Department of Health to manage former primary care trust properties not transferred to providers under the NHS reorganisation.

A union learning agreement, the first with a newly created NHS body, was signed on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013. It has been signed with the unions - UNISON, GMB, MiP (Managers in Partnership) and Unite. The Agreement sets out a framework for how they will promote training and development across the company and benefit all of the 3,200 NHS Property Services staff, whether or not they are union members.

The partnership comes shortly after the launch of the SPF Learning for Life campaign <http://www.socialpartnershipforum.org/learning-for-life/> which aims to increase the level of knowledge of learning opportunities; the amount of training taking place; and the positive impact of training on patient care.



### **Simon Holden, Chief Executive of NHS Property Services, said:**

“One of the great advantages of being a national organisation is the wide scope of career development opportunities we will be able to offer to staff. We are committed to being an employer of choice by empowering our staff to achieve their potential”.

### **NHS Property Services Head of Training, Development and Leadership, Hesketh Emden, who negotiated the agreement said:**

“I’m pleased about working with the Unions’ education team. It’s a great opportunity to tap in to their expertise.”

**Christina McAnea, UNISON head of health said:**

"The fact that this learning agreement has been signed within six months of the formation of NHS Property Services on 1 April 2013 demonstrates a real commitment from both the employer and staff side unions to learning and training. We now need to ensure that what is in the agreement is put into practice and delivers for NHS staff, particularly those in bands 1 to 4."

**Barrie Brown, Unite's National Officer for Health said:**

"The commitment of NHS Property Services and its partnership working with the unions to develop the union learning agreement provides an example for others to follow."

**GMB's national officer Andy Prendergast said:**

"We look forward to positive working relations, both with management and our partner unions, to support our members to develop both personally and professionally."

**Marisa Howes, Managers in Partnership's National Officer, said:**

"MiP is delighted to have been involved in developing this Union Learning Agreement. It shows that NHS Property Services prioritises learning and development for its staff and a genuine commitment to work in partnership with the trade unions to ensure that all staff are able to develop to their full potential."

**Dean Royles, NHS Employers Chief Executive, said:**

"This learning agreement is a great example of how we see the Learning for Life campaign supporting increased learning opportunities for NHS staff. By working together, employers and trade unions can identify and organise workplace learning which can help realise organisational, staffing and patient benefits."