

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 update

The latest SPF Strategic Group meeting was held on 9 June 2015. A brief review of post general election priorities was followed by an NHS England led discussion on [7 day Services](#) and the learning to date from early implementers, Staff Engagement in New Models of Care (Vanguards) and the NHS 5 Year Forward View, and the group reviewed the draft independent SPF stocktake report, produced by IPA. The meeting agreed to have a discussion/workshop on skill mix in due course. The group agreed it would be important for NHS England to work with Regional SPFs around the 5-Year Forward View time to deliver regional engagement events, once dates were finalised.

SPF Wider Group update

The SPF Wider Group met on 14 July for the first time since the General Election. The new Health Minister for Care Quality, Ben Gummer, chaired the meeting and outlined his and Secretary of State's priorities for healthcare going forward, which he described as a 'collective endeavour' for the partnership forum. This was welcomed by all partners, as was Minister's stated commitment to work with SPF to tackle bullying and harassment in the workplace. An update on the 5 Year Forward View work was followed by a discussion on the Freedom to Speak Up recommendations. London Regional SPF presented its work on unconscious bias and the independent [SPF stocktake review report 2015](#) was ratified together with an associated [action plan](#). SPF passed on congratulations to the 2015 winner of the SPF sponsored [HPMA Partnership Award](#), Guy's & St Thomas' NHS FT, and the runners up Aintree University Hospital NHS FT and University Hospital Birmingham NHS FT.

Embedding Partnership Working Group (EPWG) update

The latest EPWG meeting was held on 8 June. The group discussed how best regional social partnerships can support the technology challenge through the National Information Board (NIB) regional events, and make sure that the SPF is involved at the policy development stage of the initiative. The group received the [SPF stocktake report 2015](#) and [action plan](#), which went to the SPF wider group on 14 July for formal ratification. A new [Facilities Time](#) web page has been developed by the group, which includes useful information and resources which focus on the importance of time off for trade union representatives so that they can engage in partnership working at a local level.

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Staff Passport Group (SPG) update

The SPG last met in July and has been engaged with the Department of Health Integrated care policy, including pooled budgets and the Better Care Fund. SPG has also been involved in developing the ACCESS 12-month review and working with NHS BSA, has been keeping track of applications for New Fair Deal and ACCESS. The SPF Staff transfer guide, formerly known as the Staff passport toolkit, is still under review. More information on the SPG can be found on our SPG [web page](#).

National Regional Group (NRG) update

The last NRG meeting was held on 6 July. This meeting brings together the partnership leads from each of the regional SPFs plus members from the National SPF, and is held twice a year. The meeting discussed the role and contribution of Regional SPFs to the Five Year Forward View time to deliver, EU funding, in particular, making a link between social partnership working in Europe and the SPF in England. The regional action log, (which captures what the regional SPFs are working on) was shared with colleagues and is available on the [SPF website](#).

SPF Dementia workshop

SPF partners attended a dementia awareness workshop run by the Alzheimer's Society on 14 July. The session provided colleagues with a greater understanding of the impact of dementia, which currently affects over 850,000 people living in the UK. It examined some of the symptoms experienced by those suffering with dementia, and the often devastating impact it can have on family relationships when a person's behaviours change as a consequence of the disease. On a positive note, given the right level of support along with improved awareness and understanding about the condition, it is possible for dementia sufferers to enjoy a good quality of life for many years.

HPMA Award for partnership working

This year the SPF partnership award went to Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust for their exemplar management development programme '[Passport to Management](#)'. Case studies on the winning entry and the two other finalists are available on the [SPF website](#). You can also listen to our podcast where the finalists talk about their projects and the challenges they faced.

2015/16 Flu Fighter Campaign

NHS Employers has worked in partnership with the NHS trade unions to successfully deliver the national staff facing flu vaccination programme, flu fighter, since 2011. A variety of [resources](#) are available to support employers with the [planning](#) and [evaluation](#) of their local campaign for 2015/16.

Partnership in Practise

We are keen to include examples of good partnership working from regional and 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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