

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 SPF strategic group met on 8 September 2015. NHS England gave a progress update on implementing 7 day services, including details about the new baseline data that underpins the case for 7 day services. Jo Lenaghan from the strategic office of the 5 Year Forward View (5YFV) board told the meeting that DH together with Arm's Length Bodies are developing a shared delivery plan. Following the November Spending Review, the plan will set out what the expectations are of the system for the extra £8 billion funding it is getting to deliver the 5YFV. It was agreed that SPF would align its future work programme to the priorities in the shared delivery plan. Health Education England (HEE) updated the meeting on the workforce advisory board and the refresh of the HEE mandate.

Embedding Partnership Working Group (EPWG) update

The group is undertaking a review of SPF communications to make sure they are fit for purpose, and reaching the right audience. . The review will start with a survey of users of the SPF website. The terms of reference and work plan for the group have been signed off and are available on the EPWG [web page](#). The [regional SPF action log](#) which provides a summary of the work of the regional SPFs was discussed at the meeting. Going forward the action log will be used to support joined up working between the regional and national SPFs.

Healthy workplaces initiative

On 2 September, Simon Stevens made an [announcement](#) to improve the health and wellbeing of NHS staff, by supporting NHS organisations to help their staff to stay well. The measures include providing healthier food options, promoting physical activity, reducing stress, and providing health checks for mental health and musculoskeletal problems. The healthy workplaces initiative will be discussed at the SPF wider group meeting on 20 October. The SPF looks forward to contributing to the implementation of the initiative and to making it a success.

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Partnership working in CCGs in the East Midlands

Recognised trade unions and management in nine Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have signed partnership agreements to formalise and strengthen their working relationships. The partnership agreements were based on an RCN agreement, which was adapted to support trade union and CCGs' needs. For a copy of the partnership agreement see our [How we do partnership](#) web page. A word version will be available in due course which can be used as a template partnership agreement.

The partnership route to dementia awareness

Employers and trade unions at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust have worked in partnership to develop workshops to help staff gain a better awareness and understanding of dementia. The workshops contributed to a wider trust objective to offer more accessible learning opportunities for staff. This objective was confirmed in a [lifelong learning partnership agreement](#). The full case study is available to read on the [SPF website](#).

Tacking bullying and harassment in partnership

Do you have a great example of management and trade unions working in partnership to tackle bullying and harassment? If you do, please tell us about it in an email to webenquiries@socialpartnershipforum.org. We are keen to share learning on the [SPF website](#). Bullying and harassment will also be a main agenda item at the next Wider SPF Group meeting on 20 October.

Health sector social partners working in Europe

Through membership of [European Federation of Public Service Unions](#) and [HOSPEEM](#), a number of the NHS trade unions and NHS employer organisations participate in European level [social dialogue](#). They work in partnership to develop agreements, exchange good practise, agree joint responses to European Commission consultation and get involved with various project and initiatives relevant to the healthcare workforce. For more information please visit the [SPF website](#).

SPF project manager maternity leave arrangements

Victoria Small, SPF project manager went on maternity leave on 11 September for 12 months. James Shepherd, will be covering for Victoria whilst she is away. The SPF would like to wish Victoria a happy and healthy maternity leave.

Partnership in practise

We are keen to include examples of good partnership working from regional and local SPF's 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. We would also encourage NHS organisations with good examples of partnership working to enter them for the HPMA Partnership Award – the 2016 HPMA Awards are due to be launched later this year.

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