SPF Bulletin
November 2017


SPF Wider Group

Minister of State for Health Philip Dunne chaired the latest SPF wider group meeting on 18 October. Minister outlined the government’s planned increases in nurse and nursing associate training places and moves to give NHS staff more flexible working arrangements, which together aim to support staff recruitment and retention and relieve pressure on the system. Yvonne Coghill and Habib Naqvi from NHS England led a discussion on progress against the NHS Workforce Race Equality Standard and the government’s recently published race disparity audit.

The group discussed plans for the NHS’s 70th birthday in June 2018 and Danny Mortimer (SPF employer side co-chair) highlighted this year’s flu fighter campaign, originally developed by the SPF in 2011 which has seen uptake of the seasonal flu vaccination among NHS staff almost double. The meeting also featured strategic updates on the national SPF visit to Beds, Luton and Milton Keynes accountable care system (ACS) to discuss de-risking system change and a case study from Dorset on how it has successfully embedded partnership working to develop ACS.

Key comms from the meeting will be published on the SPF website.

National and regional SPF priorities

The national SPF has identified the policy areas it will focus on in the next 18 months and has written to the chairs of the regional SPFs to make them aware of these and to support a joined-up approach to progressing work at a national and regional level.

The priorities include service transformation arising out of the NHS Five Year Forward View; operational productivity and efficiency; staff retention and supply and continuing the SPF’s initiative to promote positive cultures and tackle bullying in the NHS.

SPF Twitter launch

The SPF launched its national Twitter account on 9 October, providing followers with meeting and programme updates, and the latest SPF news and useful resources. Follow us @NationalSPF and join the conversation #spfNHS.
**Flu fighter and the jabathon - 6 to 10 November**

This year, #jabathon takes place from 6-10 November and asks NHS and social care staff to share their reasons for getting the flu jab, to encourage conversations and inspire colleagues to get their jab. Sign your organisation up to the #jabathon thunderclap [here](https://thinglink.com/t/1800000985289925765).

The flu fighter team at NHS Employers is seeking organisations who have worked closely with trade union representatives on their flu campaign, so they can develop good practice. Please send any such examples to [flufighter@nhsemployers.org](mailto:flufighter@nhsemployers.org).

**Health Education England (HEE) consultation update**

See the latest update from HEE following a consultation about its long-term future, including a renewed focus on workforce intelligence and supporting STPs through the local workforce action boards (LWABs). Read HEE’s update on the [SPF website](https://www.sfp.org.uk/).  

**SPF action log**

Take a look at the November version of the SPF action log on the [SPF website](https://www.sfp.org.uk/) for the latest developments on work being undertaken by the national SPF.

**DOCAS guidance**

In September 2017, the NHS Staff Council published guidance on employer level agreements for the deduction of contributions at source. The guidance, which is available on the [NHS Employers website](https://www.nhsemployers.org/), was developed to support the requirement in the Trade Union Act 2016 that, from 10 March 2018, agreements have to be in place to ensure employers charge a reasonable fee for collecting trade union subscriptions through their payroll.

**Partnership in practice**

We are keen to include examples of good partnership working between employers and trade unions on our website. If you have examples of good practice or case studies that you think would be useful to share, please send details in an email marked good practice to: [webenquiries@socialpartnershipforum.org](mailto:webenquiries@socialpartnershipforum.org).

**To subscribe to the SPF bulletin and SPF news alerts** email subscribe to the above email address.