The Social Partnership Forum brings together NHS Employers, NHS trade unions, NHS England and NHS Improvement, Health Education England and the Department of Health and Social Care to contribute to the development and implementation of policy that impacts on the health workforce.

SPF Strategic Group Meeting
Held on 21 May, members welcomed the new NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) Chief People Officer, Prerana Issar, to discuss the latest developments on the Interim NHS People Plan and the wider NHS Long Term Plan. The meeting also discussed prospective legislative changes relating to NHSE/I’s closer alignment and an upcoming report on the flu vaccination programme. The meeting received the year two report on the SPF creating positive workplace cultures and tackling bullying in the NHS – a call to action, which sets out achievements to date and future priorities.

Combined Workforce Issues Group and National Regional Group Meeting
Members of the National Regional Group, Workforce Issues Group and management representatives from the regional SPFs met on 7 May to discuss tackling violence against NHS staff and improving staff wellbeing. The meeting included good practice examples from the regions and information on the best place to work from NHSE/I. For more information take a look at a note from the meeting.

The winner of the HPMA award for partnership working is...
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for their developing a people strategy in partnership initiative. The SPF thanks all finalists for taking the time to share their excellent examples of partnership working with us. For more information on the awards ceremony, to read the winning and finalist case studies and to listen to the finalist podcast, please take a look at our website.

Guidance on facility time reporting published
The government has produced guidance for organisations on facility time reporting. Trusts are required to report and publish trade union facility time (paid time off during work to carry out trade union duties). This came into force on the 1 April 2017 for organisations employing more than 49 full time staff. This year, the deadline to upload figures to the government portal is 31 July. Read the guidance on the government website.
A financial cost of bullying calculator – now available
A tool to help NHS leaders calculate the financial cost of bullying in their organisation has been made available on the NHS England and NHS Improvement, addressing bullying and harassment, kahootz online platform. To gain access to the Kahootz platform, please send a request to: nhsi.people_strategy@nhs.net.

MOU/guidance to the regions
The memoranda of understanding were produced to support the redeployment of staff whose jobs are at risk. The SPF encourages NHS organisations to make use of these, where necessary. This includes where staff have been displaced due to the reconfiguration of cytology, pathology and genomics services.

Tackling violence against NHS staff
If you have introduced initiatives in your organisation that are having a positive impact on preventing and addressing violence against NHS staff, please email details to: webenquiries@socialpartnershipforum.org. Good practice will be shared so others can learn from it when working to increase the safety of staff.

Web updates
- The Workforce Issues Group web page has been updated with a reference and link to a letter from DHSC confirming staff who work for wholly owned subsidiaries can be offered access to the NHS pension scheme.
- Key comms from the regional SPF meetings have recently been uploaded to the SPF website - these can be found on the regional SPF web pages in the meeting information section.
- Helpforce working in partnership with UNISON and other NHS trade unions have created a volunteering charter document. The document shows how volunteers can make a valuable contribution to the NHS in England, without undermining paid staff or affecting patient safety.

To subscribe to the SPF Bulletin and SPF News Alerts email subscribe to webenquiries@socialpartnershipforum.org.