NHS 'Learning for Life' Campaign Launched

The National Social Partnership Forum (SPF), tasked NHS Employers to work in partnership with NHS Trade Unions, Department for Health and Skills for Health to deliver a campaign to increase awareness of workplace learning across the NHS.

Commenting on the launch of the campaign, Health Minister and chair of the national SPF, Dr Dan Poulter said:

"I am very pleased to support the SPF-led NHS workplace learning campaign – 'Learning for Life'. The campaign aims to increase the level of workplace learning in the NHS, which is instrumental in motivating and empowering staff, giving them valuable skills and experience. We already know that patients receive the high quality care they deserve from motivated staff so I urge employers and trade unions to use the campaign materials and work together to build a culture of workplace learning in the NHS for the benefit of patients and staff."

Christina McAnea, chair of the NHS trade unions and UNISON head of health, said:

"The NHS trade unions give their full support to the workplace learning campaign. We know that when staff have access to good quality appraisal, learning and skills training, and are properly equipped to undertake their job role, this has a positive impact on the patient experience and the quality of health outcomes. This campaign will encourage employers and trade unions to work together to promote learning for all staff – particularly those in the lower pay bands. It will help to ensure that staff have the right skills for the job and the confidence to act in the patients’ best interests."

Dean Royles, chief executive of the NHS Employers organisation added:

"NHS Employers welcomes the opportunity to work with our partners to deliver the Learning for Life Campaign. The NHS faces lots of challenges but here we can really make a difference. Workplace learning clearly plays an important role in improving staff skills and experience, supports staff engagement and motivation and helps improve patient care. We know NHS employers and their trade union partners feel the same and hope they find the toolkit and supporting campaign material useful in helping them to embed a culture of learning at work in their organisation."