

Promoting partnership working in the NHS

The SPF brings together NHS Employers, NHS Trade Unions, NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care to contribute to the development and implementation of policy that impacts the health workforce.

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Part of the SPF structure

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Feeds into but not part of the SPF

SPF Wider Group

Chaired by a health minister, this is the senior SPF group. It is made up of a broad membership which includes representatives from all the NHS trade unions. Meetings enable involvement in priority policies, where there are implications for the workforce, and the celebration of successful local and regional partnership working.

NHS Staff Council

The SPF links with the NHS Staff Council, which is a negotiating forum between employers and trade unions on the contractual arrangements for NHS staff.

SPF Strategic Group

Led by co-chairs representing NHS Employers and trade unions, this group, which operates under the SPF Wider Group, enables more in-depth discussions with system leaders on policy with implications for the workforce, at an early stage in its development.

Regional SPFs

There are nine regional SPFs which connect into the national SPF through NHS Employers National Engagement Service. These provide a forum for employers and trade unions to engage with regional and national leads to contribute to policy development and implementation where it impacts on the workforce in their region.

Workforce Issues Group (WIG)

A subgroup of the SPF Wider Group and SPF Strategic Group that supports the workforce through system change and assists initiatives to help NHS staff stay healthy and well and to work in positive workplace culture.

NHS trust, foundation trust and integrated care board SPFs

These organisation-based SPFs link to the SPF structure through the regional SPFs. Enabling managers and trade unions to work in partnership to deliver a positive working environment, in which staff can provide high quality care and services.

Violence Reduction Subgroup

A subgroup of the Workforce Issues Group that facilitates a partnership approach in progressing work to prevent and reduce violence and abuse directed against NHS staff.

