



PRESS STATEMENT

30 March 2016

A more strategic, coherent approach to workforce planning needed

Responding to [Fit for Purpose](#), today's report by the Health Foundation, Siva Anandaciva, head of analysis at NHS Providers, said:

"Today's report highlights how we must change our approach to workforce planning to solve the challenges we are facing. Workforce planning in the NHS is all too often fragmented across different bodies and marginalised as an afterthought in national policy decisions. We welcome the suggestion of a new National Workforce Strategy Board to provide greater strategic direction and coordination to workforce planning, building on the existing work of Health Education England. However, we must not mistake the need for a clearer national workforce strategy with a desire for greater national grip and control of workforce planning, and we must ensure that the needs of local areas continue to inform and improve national workforce decisions appropriately.

"NHS staff work hard to deliver high quality care, but the service is struggling to maintain these high levels of performance when both the pipeline of future staff and the morale of current staff are under pressure. Both national research and local experience from NHS trusts and foundation trusts has found that an engaged, supported and valued workforce can deliver even better care for patients and their families. We now need a more strategic and coherent approach to workforce planning to support this aspiration and prevent the NHS lurching from one workforce crisis to another."

-Ends-

Notes to editors

About NHS Providers

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has 95% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
- Follow NHS Providers on twitter @NHSPROVIDERS and Chris Hopson, chief executive, @ChrisCEOHopson
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