



PRESS RELEASE

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Deeper understanding of patient needs is key to developing NHS workforce skills

Commenting on [Reshaping the workforce to deliver the care patients need](#) from the Nuffield Trust, commissioned by NHS Employers, Saffron Cordery, director of policy and strategy, NHS Providers, said:

“There is a huge workforce challenge in the NHS but with that also comes opportunity. That opportunity is to put patients' needs centre stage and train, recruit and establish a workforce that can meet those needs most effectively. If the NHS is to achieve the step-change in efficiency set out in the Five Year Forward View, then the way in which its workforce operates must change urgently.

“Today’s report rightly makes it clear that this is not just about training more staff, or even about creating new roles, it is also about developing, training and equipping the existing workforce, especially the vast non-medical workforce. This should result in a more stable substantive workforce with reduced reliance on temporary staff. This will help improve continuity and better patient care by closing the gap between what patients need and the skills available to care for them.

“The learning and recommendations in the report are an important step forward in helping organisations to rethink roles and break down traditional barriers to create an adaptable workforce that delivers quality and efficiency for the 21st century. This will require significant time and planning if NHS providers are to see genuine benefits at the frontline and they must be given the space to use this guidance and effectively reshape the workforce.”

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 Saffron Cordery @Saffron_Policy
- Contact Geethani Piyasena, media relations, 07711 376 267