

Workforce Advisory Group Meeting

Tuesday 10th November 2020 11:00-12:00

Chairs: Vic Rayner (National Care Forum)
Colin Angel (United Kingdom Homecare Association)

Attendees: Anna Boaden (DHSC)
Vicky Dare (DHSC)
Joe Matthews (DHSC)
Francesca Naish (DHSC)
Eleanor Kershaw (DHSC)
Henry Pattison-Hudd (DHSC)
Victoria Hasan (DHSC)
Andy Tilden (Skills for Care)
Ann MacKay (Care England)
Anna McEwen (Shared Lives Plus)
Delyth Curtis (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services)
Jon Sutcliffe (Local Government Association)
Karen Culshaw (Care Quality Commission)
Karolina Gerlich (Care Workers' Charity)
Matthew Egan (Unison)
Melanie Weatherley (Care Association Alliance)
Sam Sherrington (NHSE/I)
Susie Singleton (Public Health England)
Zameer Bhunnoo (Health and Safety Executive)

- David James will join the WAG as representative from the CQC, replacing Rob Assall Marsden

1. Update on restricting staff movement

- WAG discussed DHSC's proposal to restrict staff movement, potential methods of funding the costs to employers and providers of following any new regulation, and how the regulation would be monitored and implemented

2. Staffing of 'designated' care services

- WAG raised questions for DHSC to take to policy leads on 'designated' care services

3. Extremely vulnerable staff, those previously 'shielding' and operation of the furlough scheme

- WAG discussed the specifics of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) and the eligibility of social care staff who are extremely clinically vulnerable or at risk
- More information on those considered extremely clinically vulnerable can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>
- Online guidance to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme was updated on 10 November 2020 and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

4. Access of occupational services

- WAG discussed existing resources available to support wellbeing of the workforce; DHSC sought feedback on further support it can make available and how to implement these

5. The use of volunteers for direct care

- This agenda item is now closed

6. Other business

- The Government has no current plans to provide care workers with additional bonuses. Please see a relevant parliamentary question for more information: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-05-05/hl3858>