

Workforce Advisory Group Meeting

Wednesday 28th October 14:00-16:00

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

Attendees: David Pearson
Vicky Dare (DHSC)
Jamie Weatherhead (DHSC)
Kathryn Freeman (DHSC)
Henry Pattison-Hudd (DHSC)
Eleanor Kershaw (DHSC)
Victoria Hasan (DHSC)
Zameer Bhunoo (Health and Safety Executive)
Matthew Egan (Unison)
Karolina Gerlich (Careworkers Charity)
Ann MacKay (Care England)
Susie Singleton (Public Health England)
Jon Sutcliffe (Local Government Association)
Andy Tilden (Skills for Care)
Melanie Weatherley (Care Association Alliance)

1. Review of Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce

- David Pearson will be chairing a revised version of the Taskforce, aimed at giving advice and feedback on the implementation of the Winter Plan
- The Workforce Advisory Group (WAG) noted areas of the Taskforce Report which could be further discussed, and there was an update on how recommendations were being taken forward within Government
- DHSC discussed the aims and purposes for the reconvened WAG, including intelligence gathering and policy feedback
- The reconvened WAG will act as a source of information on the sector and on issues within the workforce; it will also act as a feedback mechanism on items being taken forward and implemented by Government
- Recommendations that did not appear in the Winter Plan are under consideration as part of long-term reform

2. Update on Taskforce recommendations

- Recommendation 14 on workforce capacity: WAG discussed the role of the Central Government and that of local organisations
- Recommendation 16 on wellbeing: DHSC are seeking to understand what Central Government can do in the short term; WAG raised concerns about the level of wellbeing support currently available for staff
- Recommendation 17 on delegated tasks: Skills for Care discussed looking into this in the future; WAG sought clarity on restrictions for employers

3. The Adult Social Care COVID-19 Winter Plan

Restriction of staff movement

- DHSC raised potential risks from commitment to restricting staff movement; other risks were raised by WAG including the gap in services and staff provision that might be created by these restrictions

- WAG discussed potential compensation mechanisms and the risks associated with them
- DHSC sought information on how providers are using the ICF and where it is being directed

Staffing capacity support including use of volunteers

- DHSC are engaging with stakeholders to find out more about initiatives to generate temporary workforce capacity over winter; WAG discussed the use of staff banks

Support for staff undertaking delegated healthcare responsibilities

- DHSC is considering methods to deliver support to staff taking on extended roles and delegated tasks over the winter period
- WAG discussed the need to ensure clarity for employers over guidance related to delegating tasks