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Dear Colleague,

Transfer of Workforce functions from NSS to NES

We are writing to inform you of the arrangements to transfer certain workforce data, statistical and intelligence functions from Information Services Division (ISD) in National Services Scotland (NSS) to NHS Education for Scotland (NES) later this year. The Health and Social Care Workforce Plan – Part One outlined a vision for an enhanced role for NES in workforce intelligence. This together with the planned move of ISD into the soon to be created Public Health Scotland has led to a review of current arrangements. As a result, the Scottish Government, NSS and NES have all agreed that it is appropriate to transfer responsibility for some workforce data, statistical and intelligence functions to NES, to align with the development of the supply-side workforce data platform (Turas Data Intelligence). This will also help to ensure that data about our workforce can be developed and used by NES, working with stakeholders, to inform decisions about attraction, recruitment, education, training and workforce development.

Our immediate priority is to ensure a smooth transition of service so that it continues to meet the requirements of stakeholders, whilst for the future the priority will be to ensure that it can be developed to support the responses to the challenges that we undoubtedly face around workforce supply.

Governance and Engagement

The plan for the transition has been developed by a short life working group comprising representatives from SG, NSS, and NES. Given the sensitivity of workforce data, the group included expertise in both Information Governance and Statistical Governance. Throughout, there has been engagement with the NSS Head of Profession for Statistics, the SG's Chief Statistician's Office, and the Office for Statistics Regulation, which will continue throughout the transition and beyond.

Workstreams involved

The following functions and areas are in-scope for the transfer of functions:

- NSS (ISD) Workforce Intelligence Team functions
- NSS (ISD) staff placed in SG Health and Social Care Analysis (HSCA)
- CAMHS, Psychology and Psychology of Parenting (PoPP)

The following areas are not affected:

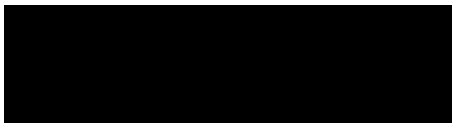
- Nursing & Midwifery Workload & Workforce Planning Programme
- National Primary Care Contractor Database
- GP Practice Workforce, Expenses and Activity Data
- GP workforce & practice list size publication

How will this affect the production and delivery of workforce data, statistics and intelligence?

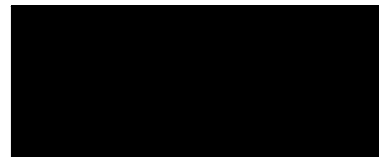
NSS and NES staff will be working through a transitional period to hand over responsibility for the production of the relevant data, statistical publications and intelligence products with the intent that NES will assume responsibility for workforce publications from December 2019. There will be no change to the publication schedules, data standards or data sources during this period. As we work through the detail of the transition, we will be in contact with local workforce and other relevant teams to inform them of new contact arrangements.

We will endeavour to keep you and other stakeholders fully informed throughout this period as plans progress. In the meantime, if there are any queries, or if you would like more detail on the transition plan, please contact: datagroup@nes.scot.nhs.uk or your line manager in PHI.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lamb
Chief Executive
NHS Education for Scotland



Colin Sinclair
Chief Executive
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