

## **UK Government Consultation Response to the Green Paper: Promoting a Sustainable Workforce for Health in Europe**

### **Overview**

1. The Department of Health in England has consulted with the Devolved Administrations who are in agreement with this response.

### **Possible areas for action and consultation**

2. Areas where we most welcome the Commission to seek further improvements are:

#### Promoting a sustainable workforce

- Considering 'return to practice' campaigns to attract back those who have left the health workforce.

We have found considering areas for campaigns at certain intervals, has given us an insight as to how we can improve and attract a good quality workforce.

- Raising awareness in schools and the large range of careers in the health and care sectors

NHS Careers website and Step into the NHS website are frameworks already in place across the UK

#### Public Health Capacity

- Strengthening capacity for screening, health promotion and disease prevention

#### Training

- In particular focusing on updating professional skills to improve quality health outcomes and ensuring patient safety

#### Mobility

- To promote 'circular' movement of staff. We welcome the flexibility and skill transfer that the right of free movement between Member States allows for employers and employees.

#### Global Migration

- Supporting the WHO in its work to develop a global code of conduct for ethical recruitment

The UK Code of practice for the international recruitment of healthcare professionals (2004) is already in place and available at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_4097730](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4097730)

#### Data to support decision making

- Availability and comparability of data on the health workforce, in particular with a view to improving information on the movements of particular groups of the health workforce (the tracking of workers between member states is difficult and this is an area to highlight)

In particular it would be helpful to see the Commission propose common areas of work around the issues facing the EU workforce for health, where the EU action would support and add value to the MS competence under Article 152 of the Treaty, specifically:

- By supporting the WHO in its development of an ethical code of conduct for the international recruitment of health workers

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