



Separate letters to:

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, SoS DHSC; sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk
The Lord Kamall: PSLords@dhsc.gov.uk

25 February 2022

Health and Social Care Bill: Amendments

As this important Bill enters the Report Stage, all the twelve member organisations of the Allied Health Professions Federation would like to add their support to two specific amendments. Further information about the Federation is in the annex.

The AHPF supports the amendment that says that an integrated care board must— (a) keep under review the skills, knowledge and experience that it considers necessary for members of the board to possess (when taken together) in order for the board effectively to carry out its functions, and (b) if it considers that the board as constituted lacks the necessary skills, knowledge and experience, take such steps as it considers necessary to address or mitigate that shortcoming.” **The AHPF believes an Allied Health Professional (AHP) should be represented on every workforce board.**

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AHPs are the third largest workforce in the NHS (after doctors and nurses) and deliver high quality services across health and social care. There are over 150,000 AHPs working within a range of surroundings including hospitals, people's homes, clinics, surgeries, the justice system, local authorities, private and voluntary sectors and primary, secondary and tertiary education. The breadth and depth of AHP skills and reach make them ideally placed to lead and support transformative changes.

Simply doing what has always been done in terms of clinical leadership won't deliver anything different; we have to do something different and this is the very chance to do that. It could also be argued that the existing doctor/nurse led model of clinical leadership has hardly delivered the service we all need and deserve. The AHP focus is much more about prevention, maximising potential, reducing dependency, return to work and recovery from elective surgery; this is the very shift the NHS needs. AHPs are critical to many of the developments outlined in the Long-Term Plan which ICSs will be seeking to deliver. They are also the clinicians working on the boundaries between health and social care as well as other sectors such as education and justice and are therefore crucial to delivering true integration.

The AHPF would also like to add its support to Baroness Finlay of Llandaff's amendment requiring Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to produce an annual rehabilitation plan. Despite rising demand on underfunded and overstretched services, there is no plan or additional funding for rehabilitation services and workforce in either the Elective Recovery Plan or Integration White Paper published earlier this month.

We would be happy to expand on these points and explain further, including the role of the AHPF. I would like to invite you to a meeting of the AHPF Board, where all member organisations are represented and can explain the crucial role of AHPs in the NHS and beyond.

Yours sincerely



Karen Middleton CBE
AHPF Chair

The Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF)

The AHPF's vision is that the AHP workforce is positioned to improve the health and well-being of the population.

Our mission is that Federation provides collective AHP leadership and representation to influence national policy and guidance at a strategic level. In all areas, the AHPF promotes parity between mental and physical health.

The Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF) is made up of twelve professional bodies representing Allied Health Professionals (AHPs):

- British Association for Music Therapy (BAMT)
- The British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT)
- The British Association of Dramatherapists (BADth)
- The British Dietetic Association (BDA)
- British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO)
- British and Irish Orthoptic Society (BIOS)
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT)
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)
- College of Paramedics (CoP)
- Royal College of Podiatry (RCPoD)
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)
- The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR)

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AHPs focus on consistent, person-centred, preventative and therapeutic care for children and adults. They are registered, regulated and trustworthy professionals performing a crucial function in the NHS and social care.