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Dear Steve,

Re HEE AHP Workforce Taskforce

Thank you for writing on behalf of the Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF) regarding the creation of HEE's new AHP Workforce Taskforce ('the Taskforce'). I am so pleased that this is welcomed by the AHPF and do hope you find the response below addresses the helpful points that you have raised.

To offer some wider context, this Taskforce is primarily HEE's response to delivering a ***new system facing regional workforce planning solution*** to address the risks and challenges faced by the AHP professions in terms of size and geographical distribution of training. As a consequence, the weighting towards HEE regional AHP leads and workforce transformation leads, who are at the forefront of both regional planning and delivery, is deliberate.

Underpinning this, is the fact that the data referred to in The People Plan has not been formally adopted and there is a need to refresh this. Once the data has been updated and discussed with the Professional Bodies, we plan to work through the supply interventions at the fortnightly meeting that HEE has with the AHP Education Leads from across the 14 professions (including the Health and Care Education Leads members) – the 'Thursday Group'. For many of the Professional Bodies the education lead is also our contact for workforce, so we had anticipated that this group was indeed acting as an 'expert reference group'. That said, where the education lead is not the workforce lead, we would be very pleased to extend an invitation to them to join the 'Thursday Group' for the duration of the Taskforce, to ensure the 360' view. The 'Thursday Group' can then nominate who attends the Taskforce meeting as a representative/s of the 14 professions.

With regards to the students, our rationale (and one we feel strongly about) is that supporting a pair of representatives may inspire greater confidence and, therefore, active engagement. In order to manage a large group, all other representatives are limited to one including our service user representation. As I am sure you will appreciate, the challenge with 14 individual professions, on such a 'professions specific topic', is finding a representative voice for all 14, hence our engagement strategy via the 'Thursday group' as well as the individual professions.

I hope the above helps to explain our engagement intentions, but, if, despite the above, you remain strongly of the opinion that the AHPF needs two voices on the Taskforce to represent all 14 professions as well, that is absolutely fine, however it will be vital that both the large and small professions are represented, as clearly they have unique challenges.

Please could I trouble you to send Paul a list of the additional colleagues to invite to the Thursday sessions and he will invite them as of the next meeting. Please can you also let Paul know the names of the 1 / 2 colleagues to invite to the Taskforce? Could I also ask you to flag to colleagues that the team will be in touch to arrange meetings during April to look at the workforce data with workforce leads and the HEE data analysts, and thus build on the initial work undertaken as part of The People Plan.

We look forward to working with you and colleagues on this important task.

Kind regards,



Professor Beverley Harden FCSP

Deputy Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, England

Allied Health Professions Lead, Health Education England

National Lead for Multi Professional Advanced and Consultant Practice