

By email only: england.nhs75engagement@nhs.net

26 May 2023

Dear Sirs,

HCPC response NHS Assembly survey on the NHS@75

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) is a statutory regulator of 15 health and care professions in the United Kingdom. Our role and remit are underpinned by the Health Professions Order 2001. We maintain a register of professionals, set standards for entry to our register, approve education and training programmes for registration and deal with concerns where a professional may not be fit to practise. Our role is to protect the public.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with this conversation about the NHS and its future.

What would we like from the NHS in the future?

In the future, the NHS will need to be more attuned to the wider challenges and opportunities that society faces. It will need to be more environmentally conscious – striving to promote environmental citizenship and to embed sustainability into everything it does.

It must understand the potential of technology, embrace the opportunities it presents and plan for the impact it will have on traditional ways of working. With the best interests of patients at its heart, the NHS must empower health and care professionals to make the best use of artificial intelligence and other innovations that can deliver the best possible outcomes. This will include embracing new forms of diagnostics, monitoring and self-care to increase prevention.

We must also have a workforce in place which is capable of meeting the changing needs of patients and the public. It must foster and support an increased number of advanced practitioners. Having developed a better understanding of workforce retention, and the preceptorship and wellbeing support needed to enable it, the NHS of the future will be filled with highly skilled people, able to provide sustainable, safe, high quality, timely treatment and care.

The ways of working will also need to change, with professionals increasingly working as part of multidisciplinary teams. This will require professionals to work across multiple sites, closely collaborating with colleagues in social care and

community services. Delivering care outside hospital as close as possible to the point of need, whether that be at people's homes or in other community settings, will be more convenient for patients, more efficient and it will help to improve sustainability.

This vision relies in part on significant regulatory reform, to drive forward innovation and increased collaboration. Reforms to governance, education and training, registration and fitness to practise will enable us, and other regulators, to have greater autonomy over our regulatory processes. We must be better at preventing poor outcomes or failures in quality rather than addressing them after they occur.

The health and care landscape will, without doubt, see huge changes over the next 75 years. The NHS, and all of us who work within it and alongside it, must be innovative, adaptable and responsive to change. Throughout, our task is to maintain a laser-like focus on delivering consistently high quality, safe care for all those who need it.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Smith
Interim Deputy Chief Executive