

Supporting Freedom to Speak up (Whistleblowing) in the NHS – Employment Support Scheme Newsletter – September 2017

This is the second newsletter from NHS Improvement to update you on our work in implementing the Freedom to Speak Up recommendations.

The development of the Whistleblowers' Support Scheme for Secondary Care

Good progress is being made on the development of the pilot scheme to support Whistleblowers. The key aim of the scheme will be to support individuals who have raised concerns in the public interest about risk, malpractice or wrong doing in the NHS and have experienced employment difficulties as a result.

Pilot scheme launched

The Design Group (formed of individuals from the whistleblowing community and representatives of employers) have now finalised all documentation and application processes and a formal launch of the pilot scheme took place on 22nd September. The event was attended by members of the whistleblowing community and included presentations from members of the Design Group, Working Transitions – the independent company who will provide the support to individual whistleblowers throughout the pilot phase, and John Moores University, who will evaluate the processes and support during the pilot phase.

Expressions of interest process begun

An Expression of Interest form for those interested in accessing the pilot phase is available on the NHSI whistleblowers' support scheme webpage and has been circulated as far as possible to the whistleblowing community. From the information provided on this form, we will be able to establish approximate numbers of whistleblowers interested in the pilot and final phase of the scheme.

Expressions of interest should be submitted to NHSI no later than 4th October 2017. 20 applicants will be selected from a broad range of circumstances and backgrounds to enable learning from differing experiences and invited to submit a full application. The panels will then be convened to assess these 20 applications for suitability to access the pilot scheme. The panels, following selection criteria, will then recommend up to 10 applicants to be contacted by Working Transitions and benefit from the support they can offer. Results from the pilot phase will provide us with information for the development of the future full scheme.

Panel meetings will be established to consider the applications at the end of October and throughout November with the intention of getting successful applicants on the scheme late November and December

Training for panel members underway

Panel members training sessions are taking place across the country with more dates now being added to the schedule to accommodate everyone who has expressed an interest in becoming part of the process. We have so far delivered training to over 20 panel members during three sessions with

a further 28 people who have reserved a place on the training session 27th October. Further sessions will be organised at the beginning of November have received excellent feedback from each session. Please email me on NHSI.wbss@nhs.net should you or your colleagues wish to join one of the sessions.

Employer workshops about to start

We have also organised Employers Workshops around the country to discuss the scheme with both NHS and external organisations and encourage employers to get involved. This is an opportunity to consider what support employers might need and options for support that employers could offer to anyone on the scheme ie work placements, shadowing or training opportunities, work trials etc.

Dates for these sessions are included in the table below. Please be aware that we are anticipating that numerous trusts may wish to attend these workshops as we have already received a great deal of interest and offers of support. In the event that the sessions become oversubscribed, we will place your interest on a reserve list and arrange additional workshops to enable attendance.

Date	Event	Venue
19 th October (am)	Employers workshop	Skipton House, London
20 th October (am)	Employers workshop	Taunton
23 rd October (am)	Employers workshop	Quarry House, Leeds
27 th October (pm)	Panel members training session	Skipton House, London

More information is available on the booking link.

You will be able to book on the workshop that fits with your location and date preferences, and all details are below.

These workshops will take place in **London, North (Leeds) & South (Taunton)** on the following dates.

London	19 th October	Skipton House, London	<u>BOOK HERE</u>
Taunton	20 th October	Taunton Regional office, Taunton	<u>BOOK HERE</u>

Leeds	23 rd October	Quarry House, Leeds	<u>BOOK HERE</u>
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We are also working closely with Care Quality Commission and the National Guardians Office to explore how trusts' involvement and input into the scheme can be recognised as a positive influence on the changing culture of the NHS and we will keep you apprised of any developments in this area.

The events will be delivered jointing with NHS England. We are using a combined booking management system Should you find difficulty in booking onto one of the dates above please email england.wss@nhs.net to be placed on a reserve list and be informed of a second date.
Webpage launched

We have now included a web page dedicated to the whistleblowers support scheme within the NHS Improvement web site. We will be updating this page with scheme documents, events and updates on a regular basis.

Please visit the page by clicking the link below.

<http://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/freedom-to-speak-up-whistleblowers-support-scheme>

Contact details

Please contact me directly if you wish to discuss the scheme, want to join any of the sessions/workshops or would like more information on the scheme.

Confidential email address for the Whistleblower's Support Scheme is NHSI.wbss@nhs.net.

Wendy Webster

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