



Joint statement with NHS Improvement

7 December 2016

The Academy, Medical Royal Colleges and NHS Improvement share a joint commitment for patients to receive consistently safe, high quality, compassionate care within local and specialist health systems that are financially sustainable.

The NHS and social care systems are under pressure as never before. Changing demographics, rising demand and unprecedented financial pressures are leading to huge strains on the systems, the quality of care and on health and care staff.

The Academy, Medical Royal Colleges and NHS Improvement recognise that if health and social care is to be sustainable and quality maintained, there is going to have to be a substantive change in the way services are provided and organised so better care is delivered more effectively. In many areas, this will entail equal changes in how health and care staff carry out their own jobs and work with colleagues.

Following a number of recent discussions, the Academy and NHS Improvement have agreed a statement of intent to work together for the benefit of service and patients

The principles underlying this statement are that

- Improving quality and health outcomes for patients within the financial resources entrusted to the health service must be the key driving motivation
- Transparency and honesty about the scale of challenges and the implications of solutions
- Raising legitimate concerns over risks to the quality of services is a responsibility of Colleges
- Willingness on behalf of the Academy and Colleges to engage in seeking and taking ownership of jointly agreed solutions
- Willingness on behalf of NHSI to work in true partnership with the Academy and Colleges to develop solutions and also to acknowledge legitimate concerns of risks to the quality of services raised by the Academy and Colleges.

The Academy and NHSI have committed to work together on two specific initiatives:

Preparing the workforce; maintaining the Standards

In the context of the challenges and changes the NHS faces:

- How we maintain the clinical standards required for good care – particularly relating to staffing requirements?

- Do we need to make changes to how we think about and devise those standards?
- How do we protect education and training standards
- How do we equip staff to meet those challenges and work in the ways required to deliver the new models of care?
- Can we identify specific barriers that might prevent staff making the changes that are required?

Clinical Balancing advice and input to national bodies

- How is co-ordinated and cross specialty clinical input and advice best provided to national bodies
- Maintaining independence of advice with clinical ownership of solutions
- the views of individual experts with settled Collegiate opinion
- The mechanisms and resourcing of providing collective clinical input

The Academy and NHSI have committed to continued close engagement and co-operative work to support the NHS, its staff and patients through what we acknowledge will be testing times.

Professor Dame Sue Bailey, Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges said, *'With ever increasing pressures on the service, we need to be smarter and more strategic in the way we tackle the challenges that lie ahead. The Academy is looking forward to working very closely with NHSI to help drive the changes that need to be made, which at their heart will be about improving patient safety and standards of care. We need to find ways to ensure services are delivered in the in the right place and in a way that works for patients, but that also create efficiencies in the system. Clinicians can and should play their part in shaping redesign and our partnership is an important step on this journey.'*

Jim Mackey, Chief Executive of NHS Improvement, said, *'Strong clinical leadership is the bedrock on which the NHS is built and it is the bedrock on which NHS Improvement has been established, both through our own medical and nursing directorates and clinical networks as well as our Improvement Faculty whose membership includes internationally respected clinical leaders. Our new partnership with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges is a vital extension of this approach.'*

'The Academy brings with it the combined clinical expertise of all the Royal Colleges and their insight will help provide the necessary external rigour and challenge to inform our own decision making. At the beginning of the year, when we set out our provider roadmap, I said that NHS Improvement will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the service, whether that is in getting a grip on the financial situation or providing stability and offering support as our NHS seeks to change and improve to meet the needs of its patients. By embedding clinical expertise and the knowledge of the Royal Colleges at the very heart of our work I am confident that we will be able to create the conditions for real and lasting change in the NHS. I welcome this new partnership and look forward to progressing at pace the joint initiatives identified.'