
Heath and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

26 November 2021

Responses to Recommendations

Response by Gillian Keegan, MP

Ministers have published a revised Code of Practice for International Recruitment of Health and Social Care Personnel. This will provide international staff with the opportunity to work in the UK. The Government will work with countries all over the world to promote the best standards of ethical recruitment of health and social care. I attach a link to the code of practice for your information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-international-recruitment-of-health-and-social-care-personnel/code-of-practice-for-the-international-recruitment-of-health-and-social-care-personnel-in-england>

As you may be aware the Health and Care Visa was launched last summer and is making it quicker, cheaper and easier for health and care professionals to work in our NHS. International recruitment is vital to the NHS Long Term Plan to recruit more staff and it will work alongside domestic recruitment to meet the Government's manifesto commitment to employ 50,000 more nurses by 2024.

The Government has announced a £162.5 million Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care to bolster the capacity of the adult social care workforce over winter, and ensure care workers across the country can continue to deliver high quality care for the most vulnerable. This funding is on top of the additional £388 million infection control funding announced in September 2021.

The Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund will enable local authorities to work closely with providers to consider innovative measures to boost adult social care workforce capacity across England. This could include investing in retention activity, such as occupational health and wellbeing schemes; recruitment activity, such as local recruitment campaigns; or activity to enhance the capacity of the existing workforce, such as the creation of shared banks of care staff, or funding overtime payments.

Looking to the future, the Government's Health and Social Care Levy will see a total of £5.4 billion invested in adult social care – including at least £500 million for training, qualifications and to support care workers' mental health and wellbeing.