

Key Messages Briefing – September 2017 (Issue 3)

This documents sets out key messages that members and staff can use with members and other stakeholders to promote current CSP priorities. If in doubt, please use the messages here to support our promotion of:

- GP and community physiotherapy services (talking to policy makers, commissioners, local councils, providers or members). For more information, contact Rachel Newton.
- Expanding workforce supply (talking to policy makers, commissioners, providers or members). For more information, contact Sally Gosling.
- Fair pay for NHS workers (talking to employers, policy makers or members). For more information, contact Pete Finch.

Community physiotherapy frees up GPs, gets people out of hospital and keeps them out of social care. Investing in physiotherapy can help reduce the long-term cost of health and social care.

- 1 in 5 GP visits is for an MSK problem. Expanding first contact physiotherapy in GP surgeries will relieve pressure on GPs, improve patient care and has been shown to save costs.
- Over 50% of delayed transfers from hospital are due to lack of NHS community services being available¹, so we need to see investment in community rehabilitation .
- 1/3 people aged over 65 will have a fall. Physiotherapy led falls prevention saves the NHS £4 for each £1 invested.

To achieve transformation, we need more physiotherapists trained.

Expanding the physiotherapy workforce will enable a shift to community services and more costs effective care.

We need at least 500 more chartered physiotherapists trained each year. We are seeing signs of some growth but need more. The UK Government promised 10,000 more AHP and nursing places, but are yet to deliver.

We can't afford to lose overseas physiotherapy staff due to Brexit or tougher visa rules. We need to support former physios back into practice.

Everyone has a role to play in expanding the workforce:

- Governments must ensure enough physiotherapists are trained and retained
- Employers should invest in in service training and support practice base learning.
- HEIs need to expand courses.

¹ NHS England data

- Physiotherapists must support students and returners in practice based learning.

The public value NHS staff and so should our governments.

The NHS is the public's top concern². If governments value NHS staff, they should scrap the cap on pay rises and pay a fair salary:

- NHS physiotherapists have suffered real terms pay cuts of around 14% since austerity was introduced.
- CSP surveys suggest that poor pay is a cause of physio leaving the NHS. Limiting NHS pay rises to 1% pa until 2020, risks a further loss of trained staff.

² Ipsos Mori polling