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**Sent via Email**

**For the attention of:**

**CCGs,  
CEOs of Acute Trusts  
Medical Directors  
Chairs of Acute Trusts  
DMEs  
LMCs (Chairs and CEOs)  
Area Teams**

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Our ref: BI/DS/pmh  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear Colleague,

**Primary Care Workforce Crisis - Urgent Meeting.**

We would like to invite you to attend a meeting to discuss the current and developing local crisis in our primary care workforce, on the afternoon of Wednesday 24th September. The meeting will be held in Blackwell Meeting Room, Deanery House and will commence at 2.00pm.

With the recent high profile resignation of a practice in South Bristol, this issue is of course highly topical locally and is likely to become more so in the months leading up to a general election.

Whilst HESW has worked hard to progressively increase its recruitment of GP speciality trainees, it is increasingly clear that:

1. It is highly unlikely that we will be able find enough young doctors to fill any further local expansions in training capacity.
2. A multi-agency approach is urgently needed to support and to reduce the loss of qualified GPs from the current workforce.
3. Viable solutions to our current problems involve the need to develop and train many more and different, non-medical clinicians to work alongside GPs.

We are the Local Education and Training Board for the South West

4. The involvement of social care is mission critical to both training and service delivery in primary care.

This is of course a national issue and HESW can only supply part of any solution. Employers and commissioners will also have to play their part but collectively we can make a difference. In the meantime, could we draw your attention to the following recent important publications?

- Centre for Workforce Intelligence: <http://www.cfwl.org.uk/publications/gp-in-depth-review-preliminary-findings>
- The GP Taskforce Report - HEE: <http://hee.nhs.uk/2014/07/22/gp-taskforce-report/>
- Recent publications on primary care service re-design from the King's Fund and Nuffield Trust: <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/primary-care>

What we would like to achieve from the meeting would be not only an understanding of the workforce issues across all of the key primary care organisations in our area, but also to establish a meaningful dialogue going forward on how we can together tackle this complex and important problem.

We will send out an agenda to those attending closer to the event, but would be grateful if you could confirm attendance by a senior member of your organisation over the next few weeks.

Best wishes,



Professor Bill Irish  
Director of GP Education, Health Education  
Southwest – Severn Postgraduate Medical  
Education, Health Education England



Derek Sprague  
Director of Education and Quality  
Health Education South West

Cc: Clare Chivers, Deputy Director of Education and Quality, HEE  
Maggie Rae, Wiltshire CC  
Clare Hines, Head of Strategy & Corporate Affairs  
Deborah Evans, Managing Director, West of England Academic Health Science Network  
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