

## NES External Stakeholders Draft Strategy Survey Questions:

### Organisation

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

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**Please note there is a maximum of 4000 characters for each question response.**

### 1. What do you think of 'Our Purpose and Vision'?

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. We recognise the strategic importance of the work undertaken by NES and we consider that "Our Purpose and vision" reflects accurately and concisely what the key objectives of the organisation are. We welcome in particular the reference to NES being collaborative as we consider effective partnership working with all relevant stakeholders, including the Medical Royal Colleges, is key to ensuring the success of NES and to meeting its objectives.

### 2. What do you think about 'What We Do'?

Again, the RCPE broadly welcomes this section and in particular the recognition of the challenges being faced across health and social care in relation to workforce. Recruitment and retention across all parts of the health and social care workforce are key and urgent policy priorities for the RCPE and we support all positive actions designed to attract more people to a career in health and social care. Given the importance of this topic and the need for NES to undertake effective collaboration and cooperation across different health organisations, including the Medical Royal Colleges, it may be worthwhile for NES to consider a line here setting out how it works with other stakeholders and to emphasise again its desire for close collaboration to achieve desired outcomes.

The reference to innovation, data and intelligence is highly appropriate as these will be of increasing importance to all health and social care staff going forward.

### 3. What do you think about 'Our Strategic Approach'?

The RCPE is generally supportive of the strategic approach set out here and the desire to work collaboratively with partners. The focus on acceleration of skills development in areas key to service transformation including leadership, digital and data is positive, as is a move to develop a national digital platform and increase the use of technology in health and social care. There are some good examples of best practice in all these areas within the health and social care community and we consider that NES is well placed to identify these and promote the extension of successful practices.

#### **4. What do you think about 'Our Focus for 2023-26'?**

The RCPE generally welcomes NES' Focus running up to 2026 and considers the priorities and aims are correct. The pledge to help address workforce shortages is especially important. In particular, we also support efforts to boost the social care workforce as the current workforce challenges within social care are leading directly to patient flow issues within the acute hospital setting and therefore impacting patient care.

The RCPE is keen to see additional support provided to physicians and other NHS staff at all levels and so will be extremely interested to see how efforts to increase capacity and capability to deliver psychological interventions and therapies for staff progress.

We would welcome more information on the extent to which NES plans to measure the effectiveness of its work consistently throughout the time period covered by the strategy.

#### **5. What are the implications for your organisation?**

The RCPE looks forward to working closely with NES and continuing its positive relationship with the organisation and its staff as we aim to ensure the physician workforce in particular and the NHS workforce more broadly has access to the best possible training and support.

#### **6. General Comments**

The RCPE has no further comments beyond those already made.

Closing date 1st May 2023