



FACTSHEET 15

The Care Bill – Health Education England

"We have a great opportunity to shape a future healthcare and public health workforce that can improve healthcare outcomes, building services around the needs of patients and communities. HEE will lead the new system to support healthcare providers and professionals as they identify the critical workforce challenges and ensure services have the right people with the right skills and behaviours, where and when they are needed."

Ian Cumming, Chief Executive, Health Education England

This factsheet explains what changes the Care Bill will mean for an organisation called Health Education England.

Context

Our NHS and public health services are defined by the people that work for them. Therefore we need to make sure they get good education and training and that we help them to continue to develop the skills and behaviours they need to keep getting better at their jobs. This will mean that they are able to give safe and compassionate care to patients and treat them with dignity and respect.

The Government wants the education and training we give to staff to be world class.

Health Education England (HEE) became a Special Health Authority (SpHA) on 1 April 2013. It provides national leadership for health and public health education and training in England.

Across England, the Special Health Authority, is helped by thirteen Local Education and Training Boards (LETBs), which are part of HEE (known as committees). The LETBs are groups of providers of health services paid for by the NHS who work together to make decisions about planning and buying education and training for their local area. This means, for example,

deciding how many doctors and nurses need training in an area, paying for it and checking that it is being done properly and to national standards.

What will the Bill do?

The Care Bill turns HEE from a Special Health Authority into a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB). This will make it more independent and fair because it will have clearly defined duties and powers set out in the Bill, but it will still have to report to the Secretary of State for Health and Parliament. The Secretary of State will tell HEE what he would like them to do every year by setting it objectives and priorities to achieve (through a document known as the mandate) and the results HEE is to achieve over a longer period of time (through a document known as the Education Outcomes Framework).

HEE has some very important jobs to do. It is responsible for planning and buying education and training for NHS and public health organisations and ensuring that the quality of training continues to improve to benefit patients and the public.

It also has to make sure that there are enough doctors, nurses and other people who work in healthcare jobs available and who have the right training. To do this, HEE will need to look at

what the Secretary of State for Health has asked the NHS and public health organisations to do and think about how many people might be needed and what they will be required to do.

HEE will need to make sure that education and training for staff continues to improve and takes account of changes in technology and changes in the way people are using NHS services to make sure that health services get better. It also needs to try and make more people use research and to promote the NHS Constitution so that everyone knows what patients and staff can expect from the NHS.

All providers of health services paid for by NHS funded services will have to work together with their LETB to help it to do its job.

To show that they can do their job properly, LETBs will need to meet tough criteria (rules) set by HEE and approved by the Secretary of State.

LETBs will make plans for the education and training that they will buy. HEE will check LETB plans to make sure that what the LETBs want to buy are also things that it has been decided are most important for patients throughout the country. LETBs will buy education and training from local health and education organisations, and check that it is being done properly and to national standards. If they find it is not being done properly they should report it to the right national organisations (such as professional regulators).

HEE have a system for making sure that all organisations that give education and training are paid fairly for what they do. The Bill will make sure this system continues when HEE becomes an NDPB.