

New ACCEA Medical Director announced

News story

Professor Kevin Davies has been appointed as Medical Director of the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA) for 3 years from 1 July 2020.



Professor Kevin Davies is Foundation Chair of Medicine at Brighton and Sussex Medical School, where he teaches and assesses undergraduates and postgraduates. He is Consultant Physician and Rheumatologist at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust (BSUH).

Kevin's clinical and research focus is multi-system rheumatic disease.

Kevin has extensive NHS management experience, having worked in senior roles at Kent, Surrey and Sussex Local Clinical Research Network, Hammersmith Hospital and BSUH. He is also a senior clinical examiner for the Royal College of Physicians, having been an international director there. Kevin has board-level experience in the charity sector, having been a trustee of Arthritis Research-UK (now Versus Arthritis).

He has been involved with ACCEA at a senior level for many years, most recently as Medical Vice-Chair for the South East region and as a member of its main committee.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office Code of Governance for Public Appointments. It has been made on merit and political activity played no part in the decision process. During the appointments process, Kevin has not declared any political activity.

The post is for up to 2 days a week and has a salary of £52,540 a year.

Kevin said:

This is a very exciting and challenging time to take over as Medical Director of ACCEA. The NHS has a uniquely diverse medical and dental workforce with a diverse range of skills, not just in the clinical service domain, but also in management, education and

research.

As a new scheme evolves, our priorities must be to continue to ensure that excellence is appropriately recognised in all these areas, and that awards are allocated in the most equitable way possible.

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[Joint statement following the meeting of the Withdrawal Agreement Specialised Committee on issues related to the implementation of the Protocol on the Sovereign Base Areas of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Cyprus.](#)

Press release

The first meeting of the Withdrawal Agreement Specialised Committee on the Sovereign Base Areas was held today, co-chaired by officials from the European Commission and the UK Government.



(via video conference)

The Committee was established by the Withdrawal Agreement to facilitate the implementation and application of the Protocol.

The UK and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to continued progress in implementing the measures outlined in the Protocol, which shall apply at the end of the Transition Period.

The co-chairs agreed that the Committee will meet again as necessary to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol.

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Government to review support in the workplace for survivors of domestic abuse

- Review of employment rights for survivors of domestic abuse to look at what more could be done to help survivors in the workplace
- Views sought on availability of flexible working and unplanned leave for domestic abuse survivors
- Part of the government's wider approach to tackling domestic abuse

The availability of flexible working, unplanned leave and other employment needs will be examined in a new review of how employers and government could better support domestic abuse survivors at work.

The review, launched by Business Minister Paul Scully, will look at options to improve the workplace for survivors, including how employers can help tackle economic abuse, such as by paying wages to a different bank account or making emergency salary payments available for those in real financial hardship.

Domestic abuse has a profound impact which goes far beyond what they face at home at home, with one in 5 survivors needing to take time off work due to abuse.

Business Minister Paul Scully said:

Domestic abuse may occur in the home, but its impact stretches into every aspect of survivors' lives.

This review aims to give employers the confidence and knowledge to support workers affected by domestic abuse. It will build the evidence base for possible future action by government and employers, to ensure that survivors are properly supported at work.

Safeguarding Minister Victoria Atkins said:

Domestic abuse is an abhorrent crime which often strips victims of their independence and denies them the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

Just as domestic abuse can affect every aspect of someone's life, including their work, we are committed to supporting victims wherever possible, be that through legislation such as the Domestic Abuse Bill, or through working with employers to understand what more can be done.

Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner, said:

We all have a part to play in identifying and responding to domestic abuse, and when done effectively and sensitively employers can play a pivotal role in supporting survivors to rebuild their lives. I strongly welcome the government's commitment to enhance support through the workplace in recognition of this.

Elizabeth Filkin, Chair, Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse said:

We are very pleased to hear of this timely review. Employers are key to reducing and preventing domestic abuse.

Our member employers are helping employees who are victims of domestic abuse, providing training and information for employees on how to spot domestic abuse and access help for colleagues, friends and relatives.

Dame Vera Baird QC, the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales said:

I welcome this review as it is vitally important we do all we can to raise awareness of domestic abuse across society. Everyone should be alert to the possibility that friends, family members and colleagues could be at risk.

Having a job and spending time away from their abusers can provide a degree of independence which can be crucially important for those suffering abuse. Employers should be encouraged to do all they can to ensure that they are aware of the issues, trained to recognise when people may be at risk, and to put measures in place to help and support their employees who may be experiencing domestic abuse in a sensitive and practical way.

I am aware of a scheme in Northumbria where around 400 public and private employers agreed to have nominated employees champions in their staff who other employees could easily go to, which is important as some people are uncomfortable reporting directly to their manager or employer.

I would like to like to see excellent examples such as this become the norm. And I would encourage anyone who can to contribute to this review – which will hopefully lead to positive change in work places everywhere – to do so.

Peter Cheese, Chief Executive of the CIPD, said:

The CIPD welcomes this government review on the important issue of domestic abuse and what can be done by employers to support staff that are experiencing abuse.

Far too many people have their lives destroyed by domestic abuse and there is growing evidence of increases of incidents during the lockdown and the current crisis. Domestic abuse is a societal issue, but also a workplace issue. Work should be a safe place for people where they feel they can ask for support. EHRC research also finds that 75% of those enduring domestic abuse are targeted at work, from harassing phone calls and abusive partners arriving at the office unannounced.

Employers can help create a safe and supportive workplace culture by raising awareness, and through providing the right policies and guidance for managers and staff as well as signposting to sources of support.

The review comes as the government's ground-breaking Domestic Abuse Bill continues through Parliament which will bring into law a statutory definition of domestic abuse that includes, coercive or controlling behaviour, as well as emotional and economic abuse. The Bill will also provide police forces with new powers through the Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Order, as well as place a duty on local authorities in England to provide support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

Notes to editors

The review aims to ensure survivors are given the support they deserve within the workplace, whether that is an outlet for reporting abuse, financial assistance or as a source of emotional support.

It will begin with a call for written evidence from stakeholders, on the specific employment needs of domestic abuse survivors, and how they are met by current employment rights and practices.

As part of the process, the government will explore examples of best practice from employers within the UK and evidence from other countries and how they approach domestic abuse, to see how the UK's current employment framework could be enhanced.

The review will also include a series of roundtables, run by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Home Office (HO), with organisations and individuals who wish to share their views directly.

Written submissions will be accepted until 9 September and should be sent to domesticabuse.employmentreview@beis.gov.uk, answering one of the below open questions:

- What practical circumstances arise in relation to domestic abuse and work?
- What support can be offered in the workplace for victims of domestic abuse?
- What is possible with the existing framework?
- What does current best practice look like?
- What is the potential to do more?

[The Troika Calls on the Government of South Sudan to Appoint Governors](#)

Press release

The Governments of the United Kingdom, United States of America and the Kingdom of Norway express concern at increases in violence and urge the Government of South Sudan to appoint state governors.



The following statement was issued jointly by the Governments of the United Kingdom, United States of America and the Kingdom of Norway:

The formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity in

February was a major step forward in South Sudan's peace process. Since then, a new challenge has emerged, not just for South Sudan, but for all of us. COVID-19 is a truly global challenge that has far-reaching political and economic impacts. The Troika will continue to support South Sudan in its response.

We are deeply concerned at the increased levels of violence across South Sudan. This causes immense suffering for the people of South Sudan, puts in jeopardy any gains that have been made, and has implications across the region. In Jonglei, the vacuum created by the lack of governance has exacerbated cycles of intercommunal violence. In Central Equatoria, the ceasefire signed in January between the government and non-signatory groups has broken down and we have seen heavy fighting between forces in recent weeks, with villages destroyed and their communities displaced. Shocking reports of sexual violence against women and girls continue. We are concerned with the impact of the fighting on humanitarian access.

Now is the moment for the President and Vice Presidents, supported by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the guarantors of the peace agreement, to agree on the selection of governors and to move forward to govern together for the benefit of the people of South Sudan. Any further delay creates uncertainty that undermines the transition process, slows the fight against COVID-19, and holds back efforts to end the violence that now threatens the hard-won peace.

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[Chemical engineering for nuclear in the spotlight](#)

News story

One of our employees is using his skills as a Chemical Engineer in the nuclear industry to good use by taking up a new role.



The new Chair of the Institution of Chemical Engineers Nuclear Technology Special Interest Group, Felipe Basaglia.

Felipe Basaglia is hoping his new national role will help give people working in chemical engineering across the country a better understanding of how they could benefit the nuclear industry.

Felipe, who works in our Effluent Management Strategy Team from our Warrington offices, has been voted in as Chair of the Institution of Chemical Engineers Nuclear Technology Special Interest Group.

He explains:

The group is all about increasing learning and experience of Chemical Engineers working in nuclear.

I know from my own point of view what working for Sellafield Ltd in a chemical engineering role has given me. It's so interesting, the Sellafield site offers a real challenge and no 2 problems are ever the same.

I see this role as being about bringing in fresh ideas, enthusiasm and innovation.

I've already been in touch with the Nuclear Institute and its Young Generation Network, the Society for Radiological Protection, Royal Society of Chemistry, Institute of Physics, as well as the Institutions for both Mechanical and Civil Engineers, to see how we can work together.

It is a real opportunity to reinvigorate discussion.

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