

## **Joint Statement on EU and non-EU foreign nationals working in the care sector in Wiltshire**

Wiltshire Care Partnership and Wiltshire Council would like to take this opportunity to make a clear statement about the value we place on foreign workers, both from inside and outside the EU, who either currently are, or are thinking about, working in the care sector in Wiltshire.

We have all, as providers and commissioners, been concerned to hear reports about the distress caused to staff by the result of the EU Referendum on 24th June, and even more disturbed to hear that some people in Wiltshire may have been the target of abuse. We understand that this may be a very unsettling time for everyone in the care sector, because we don't yet know what is going to happen as the negotiations for the UK's exit get underway, but we are sure there will be opportunities to show those in charge of negotiations how important the contribution of foreign national workers is in keeping our services safe. We are aware that nationally, it is estimated that the number of foreign nationals working in care is as high as 20%. We want to stress how important this proportion of our workforce is to us and to reassure all foreign nationals who have come here to work in our care industry that you and your work are valued by us, as well as by your employers, colleagues, and of course, most especially by the people you look after. Not only that, your contribution is vital to the continued stability of care services in Wiltshire, and we very much hope that you will stay during this process and continue to provide the great care that you currently offer to our communities.

We also want to stress that, if you feel you have been abused physically or verbally because of your nationality, we encourage and support you to report this to both your employer and the Police. We are sure your employer will want to support you, and indeed has a duty to do so, and particularly to address any discrimination where they are able. If you do need to report any incident to the Police you do so in person at a Police station, to a Police Officer or PCSO on the street, or over the phone via the 101 non-emergency number or 999 if you feel it is an emergency. We would strongly urge anyone affected in this way to make a report to the Police.

With warmest regards from

Wiltshire Care Partnership & Wiltshire Council