

Health and work

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When people are struggling to manage their health in the context of their work their first port of call is usually their general practitioner (GP). The GP is able to sanction a period of work absence via the Fit Note, with musculoskeletal pain and mental health conditions being the most frequently certified. However, GPs report struggling to provide vocational advice and support alongside the Fit Note and therefore patients are not always receiving support that may expedite their return to work. There are many Government policies and much research into how to support individuals with health conditions to remain in or return to work, particularly in occupational and JobCentre settings. However, there is very little information about what is important to general practitioners when managing the Fit Note process or patients who are accessing primary care, when it comes to the provision of vocational advice and support, or about how best to deliver vocational advice and support in general practice.

The purpose of this working group is to bring together colleagues with clinical experience, methodological expertise and PPIE representatives to identify new collaborations and shape a programme of work around managing the impact of health on work in primary care to form the basis of future funding bids to the school.

Anyone wishing to attend the working group meeting should contact Gwenllian at g.wynne-jones@keele.ac.uk