

The Chief Health Professions Officer's Ten Key Roles for Allied Health Professionals

Allied Health Professionals are:-

Art Therapists
Chiropodists/Podiatrists
Dietitians
Drama Therapists
Music Therapists
Occupational Therapists
Orthoptists
Paramedics
Physiotherapists
Prosthetists & Orthotists
Radiographers
Speech and Language Therapists

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Meeting the Challenge, a Strategy for Allied Health Professionals, recognised the key contribution that Allied Health Professionals make in improving the patient experience and delivering better outcomes in a wide range of specialities.

The Ten Key Roles show that Allied Health Professionals are working in flexible ways, actively promote change and are carrying out new roles that lead to improved care for patients. The Ten Key Roles support Allied Health Professionals in taking forward initiatives to overcome barriers to effective health and social care.

The NHS Plan emphasises better access and choice; for patients, clinicians and commissioners

Allied Health Professionals play a role in delivering a wide range of services for patients including

first contact services
self care
integrated care
ambulatory care
referral to other professionals
promoting expert patients
prescribing
care of chronic conditions.

The views of a great many Allied Health Professionals informed the development of the key roles.

Initially 900 AHPs gave their views on the development of key roles using a web based questionnaire, a national workshop was held and this was followed by second consultation exercise.

We are grateful to all those who have sent us their views and contributed to the consultation exercise.

Allied Health Professionals is a term that covers twelve different professional groups who carry out a varied range of roles and tasks. The consultation exercise confirmed that each profession will find that most of the roles fit their work.

Ten Key Roles for Allied Health Professionals

- **To be a first point of contact for patient care, including single assessment**
- **To diagnose, request and assess diagnostic tests, and prescribe, working with protocols where appropriate**
- **To discharge and/or refer patients to other services, working with protocols where appropriate**
- **To train and develop, teach and mentor, educate and inform Allied Health Professionals, other health and care professionals, students, patients and carers, including the provision of consultancy support to other roles and services in respect of patient independence and functioning.**
- **To develop extended clinical and practitioner roles which cross professional and organisational boundaries**
- **To manage and lead teams, projects, services and case loads, providing clinical leadership**
- **To develop and apply the best available research evidence and evaluative thinking in all areas of practice**
- **To play a central role in the promotion of health and well being**
- **To take an active role in strategic planning and policy development for local organisations and services.**
- **To extend and improve collaboration with other professions and services, including shared working practices and tools.**