The NHS Long Term Plan aims to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities, with a strong focus on care and support for older people. STPs are responsible for developing the workforce necessary to deliver these ambitions. Local workforce plans should include an expansion and workforce training to supply the NHS. Postgraduate education and training are crucial to developing advanced clinical practice skills, including specialist education and training for physiotherapists and therapy support workers.

The Long Term Plan commits to reshaping the NHS to facilitate sustained improvements in service for older people, and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) is working with AGILE and NHS England to influence the implementation of these plans. Physiotherapy has a pivotal role to play in achieving the plan’s ambitions.

Key Recommendations for Local Workforce Action Implementation

- The CSP has published a briefing for members on how to implement the Long Term Plan and has previously worked with AGILE and the CSP to recommend ways for local areas to focus on care and support for older people.
- The CSP recommends that local workforce plans should have a strong focus on care and support for older people, with a goal of increasing the workforce to 18.5 million by 2025.
- Priority measures could include developing and expanding rehabilitation services, which can help deal with workforce pressures and improve population health.

Focusing on Population Health

- As recognised in recent publications, the NHS needs to consider the impact of health, social care, and financial performance. Healthcare commissioners should work with people to retain their independence.
- AGILE, NHS England, and other stakeholders should work together to influence the implementation of the Long Term Plan.

AGILE and the CSP recommend that local workforce plans should have a strong focus on care and support for older people, with a goal of increasing the workforce to 18.5 million by 2025. Local areas should develop and expand rehabilitation services to improve population health.