

## SAMPLE LETTER TO HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (HEIs)

Local Office/Department



16 August 2017

Dear Colleague,

### **Reforming education funding for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the Government set out its commitment to funding, by 2020, up to 10,000 additional clinical placements for nursing, midwifery and allied health pre-registration education.

This will give additional flexibility to universities to deliver extra places as part of their usual recruitment processes. It is for universities to work with local healthcare organisations that provide placements to secure the posts for additional students.

Following consultation with the Council of Deans for Health and Universities UK, Health Education England (HEE) and the Department of Health have sought to design a solution to pragmatically allocate these additional clinical placements quickly, fairly, and transparently to support HEIs in offering additional places for entry onto courses starting from 1 August 2017, principally through clearing (commencing 17<sup>th</sup> August) and on courses starting in early 2018.

Separately and in parallel to this, work is underway to determine the mechanism through which clinical placement funding will be allocated for the academic year 2018/19 to 2020 (inclusive) to meet the Government commitment to funding 10,000 additional placements by 2020 and ensuring that this supports new market entrants.

### **2017/18 academic year**

HEE can confirm that funding will be made available for up to 1,500 additional clinical placements in England. This funding is for additional places HEIs may be able to offer during the clearing process, for students' immediate entry onto courses commencing from 1 August 2017 onwards, and further additional intakes in early 2018.

All HEIs running clinical undergraduate pre-registration courses which previously attracted bursary funding and which have demonstrated compliance with HEE's quality framework are eligible to have a 4.6% uplift in the number HEE funded clinical placements associated with those courses (i.e. 104.6% of the previous 2017/18 level of clinical placements). These funded clinical placements may be associated with any nursing, midwifery or allied health professional pre-registration undergraduate course the HEI is running – subject to suitable placements being available.

It should be noted that while the funding will be attached to students for the duration of their course, any uplift in the number of clinical placements in 2017/18 are not considered recurrent and will not be repeated in 2018/19 i.e. the initial 2017/18 level placement funding remains the baseline for any further allocation of funded clinical placements in 2018/19 and beyond.

## ***Allocation of funding***

### ***Stage 1***

All HEIs are being offered a flat proportional increase of 4.6% in the number of clinical placements that HEE will fund for 2017/18 this is for students commencing immediately from 1 August 2017 or early in 2018.

HEIs have the option to accept or decline this offer (an offer needs to be accepted in full); a response to the HEE region responsible for funding their NHS placements will be required by 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Any declined allocations will be subject to reallocation in a stage 1a process. Any HEI who declined its allocation for stage 1 will not be considered for a Stage 1a allocation.

Declining an additional allocation for 2017/18 intake (either as part of Stage 1a or Stage 1b where appropriate) will not preclude an institution from being party to any expansion/allocation in the 2018/19 academic year.

### ***Stage 1a***

Should any allocation of placement funding be declined at Stage 1, HEE will run a 1a round of allocation available for students' immediate entry onto courses commencing from September 2017 targeting specifically professions which are on the Home Office 'Shortage Occupation List'.

Only HEIs which accepted their full additional allocation of clinical placements in stage 1 will be eligible to receive a further allocation in stage 1a.

### ***Stage 1b***

Dependent on demand, HEE may run an additional round of allocation aimed at early intakes in 2018 following the same criteria as stage 1a using August 2017 entry rates and following discussions with providers to assess their potential capacities.

## **HEIs offering courses but not currently utilising HEE funded clinical placements**

Any HEIs providing courses for the training Nursing or Allied Health Professionals that will admit students before the end of March 2018, but have not accessed HEE funded clinical placement funding in 2017/18, should set out what their planned intake numbers will be to HEE local teams.

HEE and the Department will consider how best to seek to support this inside the funding available. New schools coming in to operation from April 2018 will form part of the 2018/19 allocation process

## **2018/2019 and 2019/2020 academic year**

Work is underway to determine the mechanism through which clinical placement funding will be allocated from 2018/19 to 2020/21 (inclusive) to meet the Government commitment to funding 10,000 additional placements by 2020.

Funding for 2,500 additional clinical placements will be made available via HEE in 2018/19. The process for allocating these placements in a manner which supports the development of the NHS workforce, in the places the NHS most needs them, will be communicated by HEE due course.

Funding arrangements for 2019/20 have yet to be confirmed, but any allocation of funded placements is expected to follow the same criteria as 2018/19.

**Regional Director,  
Health Education England**

## Clinical Placement Q&A

- 1. From when will the 2017/18 funding for 1,500 additional clinical placements be made available?**

Funding will be available in time to allow HEIs to offer additional places on courses through clearing in 2017.
- 2. How many additional clinical placements will be made available in 2018/19 and 2019/20?**

2,500 extra placements will be available in 2018/19. Details for 2019/20 are yet to be confirmed by HEE
- 3. Why is there a flat proportional increase of 5% for allocation of additional clinical placements for 2017/18?**

The flat proportional increase of 4.6% is based on a pragmatic process that was agreed due to the relative notice period of this funding being available.
- 4. Will additional clinical placement funding for 2018/19 onwards also be based on a flat proportional increase?**

See above. The mechanism through which clinical placement funding will be allocated from 2018/19 onwards will differ. Work is underway to establish the allocation process. This will be clarified in due course, before the 2018/19 application cycle opens.
- 5. Which courses does the additional funding apply to?**

The additional funding applies to any eligible pre-registration undergraduate nursing, midwifery and allied health professional course the HEI is running.
- 6. Does the additional clinical placement funding apply throughout the entire duration of the student placement or is it time limited?**

Funding is attached to students for the duration of their course.
- 7. If we decline the offer for additional clinical placement funding this year (2017/18), will this impact whether an offer is made in the following years?**

Eligibility for future years will not be impacted.
- 8. If I decline allocation of placement funding at Stage 1, will this impact whether an offer is made at stage 2?**

Yes, HEIs who do not accept the initial allocations will not be eligible for further rounds in 2017/18 where HEE fund any expansion.
- 9. Will all professions on the Home Office Shortage Occupation list for which there are clinical pre-registration undergraduate course be considered or are some professions prioritised over others?**

All professions will be considered in stage 1a. If any order of prioritisation is developed for stage 1b it will be communicated via HEE local teams.