

Our ref: CPEPAHP2020

Sent via email

To:
All Organisational Chief Allied Health Profession Officers (England);
All Allied Health Professions STP/ICS System Leads;
All HEI Heads of Schools of AHP Healthcare (England);
All AHP Professional Body Leads.

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29 June 2020



Dear colleague,

Clinical Placements Expansion Programme (AHPs)

Thank you for your sustained commitment to supporting our students to continue to progress their learning during such challenging times. As we look towards our future workforce pipeline, you will also be aware, that the Interim People Plan has identified a need to significantly increase the number of trained Allied Health Professionals working in the NHS. In order to support this vital activity, Health Education England has opened a bidding process to offer organisations/systems the opportunity to bid for 50k financial support to build placement capacity to help recover/reimagine placements post COVID-19 and to grow our AHP workforce numbers with Higher Education partners.

For the purposes of this work the professions covered by the current educational tariff and learner support fund arrangements are: podiatrists, dietitians, occupational therapists, operating department practitioners, orthoptists, prosthetists and orthotists, paramedics, physiotherapists, diagnostic radiographers, therapeutic radiographers, speech and language therapists.

It is recognised that we also need to grow NHS workforce within art therapists, drama therapists, music therapists and osteopaths and so a proposal from a consortia of NHS organisations and HEIs supported by the professional body to scope NHS placement expansion on behalf of each of the professions is welcomed.

NHS England administered the Clinical Placements Expansion Programme for nursing and midwifery undergraduate placements in 2019, with 142 NHS trusts working together with their local higher education institutions (HEIs) to create more than 7,500 new clinical placements. The scheme is being repeated for 2020 in partnership between HEE and NHS England & NHS Improvement, and is being expanded to include pre-registration placements for students training in the Allied Health Professions. This letter provides details on how partners across the system can bid for funding.

Clinical Placements Expansion Programme for Allied Health Professions

The success of the programme for nursing placements leads us to believe that additional funding in addition to placement tariff can encourage additional AHP undergraduate placement capacity. You will see through the current [AHP online workshop](#) that there is significant opportunity for placement innovation and expansion.

Your bid will make the case to work with partners to drive increased, sustainable placement capacity within departments, organisations, systems or nationally. This may be through a wide array of approaches, e.g.:

- Working with universities to employ clinical educators to boost educator and placement capacity;
- Driving multiple supervisory models;
- Enabling placements to reflect 24/7, 7/7 and 365 days per year
- Formal placement coordination to support allocation (at dept, Trust, system, network or national level)
- Innovative virtual and simulated placement opportunities to build opportunity and resilience;
- Role emerging placements;
- Opening new learning environments to reflect modern health care e.g. primary care, private/voluntary/independent sector
- New innovative approaches and those uncovered through the NHS' COVID-19 response.

It is recognised that for smaller professions the professional bodies have been instrumental in driving quality and capacity and these organisations are welcome to bid. All bids must be collaborative across service and education.

Bids to the Clinical Placements Expansion Programme can complement other funding bids, including bids for AHP clinical faculties, the HEI Strategic Support Fund and for the additional 5,000 undergraduate healthcare places currently being bid for by HEIs.

As a guide, the funding will be up to £50K per bid. For nursing, it is believed this would support approximately 25 additional undergraduates, however understood that for some professions and for different approaches that this will be different. This funding will be awarded to the NHS organisation, HEIs or the system leading the bid. Once awarded, it is expected that successful bidders will work to increase student placement numbers and therefore university places and restart, in line with their bid to ensure the new placements are all used. For national programmes such as Prosthetics and Orthotics, and Orthoptics, a single national bid is encouraged.

To note:

- This funding is in addition to the Education & Training placement tariff which will be paid for each placement;
- This funding is for pre-registration undergraduate Allied Health Profession placements;
- This funding is to support additional placements to support recovery and growth for the September 2020 intake;
- You may wish to link with your other AHP, nursing and midwifery colleagues, who will be holding similar conversation; joint bids across professional as well as organisational boundaries are welcome.

We want to support as many providers as possible and want to receive bids offering growth across all AHP professions and with good geographical coverage, in line with Long Term Plan and Interim People Plan priorities. We will prioritise bids where a firm commitment can be made to increase student numbers this September, and where ambitions to increase placement capacity are clearly aligned with HEI course growth and student demand.

Please note: the application window for the Department for Education (DfE) ‘5,000 additional undergraduate healthcare course places’ has been extended, now ending at 5pm on Friday 17 July. Extending the application window will allow HEIs and placement providers to align any bids for course places with bids for placement expansion funding through this programme.

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Next steps

HEE is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from those who would offer the additional placements. Successful bidders will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with HEE to deliver the increase and participate in the required reporting activity.

For your EOI to be considered, please complete two bidding documents:

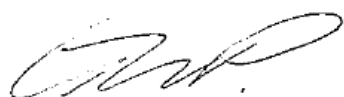
- 1) The proforma spreadsheet, which details your anticipated placement growth.
- 2) The bidding template, which allows you to describe how you would increase placement capacity.

These documents will be used together to evaluate your bid. Both documents need to be returned to educationfunding@hee.nhs.uk by **5pm on Friday 17 July 2020**.

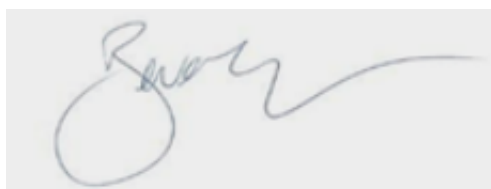
Your regional HEE AHP Lead is available to support you and answer queries related to bidding.

A copy of the equivalent letter sent to nursing and midwifery leads is appended to this letter, for your information.

Thank you for your continued support of this essential work.



Calum Pallister
Director of Finance



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