

Our ref: CPEPNM2020

Sent via email

To:

All Directors of Nursing at NHS Trusts (England).

29 June 2020

Dear colleague,

Clinical Placements Expansion Programme (nursing and midwifery)

As you know, delivering sustainable growth in the nursing workforce is vital to delivering the ambitions of the Long-term Plan. We understand that during these unprecedented times and the operational pressures presented to us by COVID-19, Trusts priorities have needed to shift. We wanted to say thank you for your hard work and resilience during what has been an incredibly challenging time. Reflecting on this and looking ahead, it is more important than ever that we remain focused on contributing to the objectives and targets set out in the Interim People Plan.

The majority of new nurses qualify through pre-registration education, and while other routes are important, ensuring growth in this route is central to achieving our aims. The Department of Health and Social Care has committed to fund an increase of 25% in clinical placement capacity for nursing students. However increasing placement capacity requires a collaborative effort from the higher education sector, local healthcare providers and national bodies. The early UCAS 2020 application cycle data reports a modest, but welcome increase in applications to nursing programmes. We want to capitalise on this and work together to ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure and capacity in the system to meet demand.

In 2019 NHS England launched the Clinical Placements Support Programme, which included 142 trusts working together with their local HEI's to increase undergraduate student placement capacity. As a result of the efforts across the system, you were able to increase placement capacity in excess of c.7,500. We would like to thank all the trusts and systems that participated and worked incredibly hard to reach their targets.

Due to this success, we have decided to launch Phase 2 of the Clinical Placements Expansion Programme. HEE and NHS England & NHS Improvement are now writing to you as Director of Nursing to invite expressions of interest, either on an individual trust basis or collectively within your STP/ICS footprint, to develop plans to grow student placement capacity for the September 2020 intake, and support students in practice.

Bids will be prioritised where a firm commitment can be achieved with partner HEIs to increase student numbers this September, and where there is a shared local ambition to deliver additional student placements alongside additional applicant demand to fill such extra capacity. As a guide, the funding will be awarded up to £50K on bids reaching their proposed target of an increase in student capacity for the September intake. This funding will be awarded to you as Director of Nursing, NHS organisation or system leading the bid.

To note:

- This funding is in addition to the Education & Training placement tariff which will be paid for each placement.
- This funding is for undergraduate placements and is available across the Health & Social Care sector to help support additional placements for the September 2020 intake.
- Bids to the Clinical Placements Expansion Programme can complement other funding bids, including bids for the HEI Strategic Support Fund and for the additional 5,000 undergraduate healthcare places currently being bid for by Universities.
- This programme is also open to AHP placement expansion. Please refer to the AHP annex for further information to ensure capacity is maximised across both professions. Bids for multi-professional placement expansion are encouraged.
- You may wish to link with your AHP colleagues, who will be holding similar conversation; joint bids across professional, as well as organisational, boundaries are welcome.

Although we will look to support as many providers as possible, we may need to prioritise investment where providers and HEIs, together, can most readily increase capacity to the maximum level. It is expected that you will work alongside your local HEIs to ensure that your target to increase student placements are met. Your EOIs should reflect this joint partnership.

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.

Next steps

HEE and NHS England & NHS Improvement are inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from those who would offer the additional undergraduate placements. Successful bidders will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver the increase.

For your EOI to be considered could you please complete the Clinical Placement proforma, outlining your 19/20 baseline figures for pre-registered student nurses (September intake only) and your September 2020/21 intake.

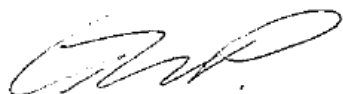
In your covering email, please:

- list any HEI partnerships and organisations/trusts that have agreed to participate within this programme of work;
- highlight where this bid aligns to other placement expansion work (e.g. bids to the Department for Education for additional undergraduate course places).

Please send your EOI to educationfunding@hee.nhs.uk by **5pm on Friday 17 July**.

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

Yours faithfully,



Calum Pallister
Finance Director
Health Education England



Professor Mark Radford
Chief Nurse, Health Education England, &
Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for England