

## Commissioning the development of nationally recognised profession-specific training schema and model curricula for enhanced level practice apprenticeships applicable to the individual AHP professions.

Market Interest Event, webinar, 22 September 2022.

### Frequently asked questions:

**Qu:** Why level 6 for enhanced practice and not level 7?

**Answer:** The level of this apprenticeship is level 6, however as there is no mandated qualification then employers can opt to use level 7 education within the apprenticeship.

**Qu:** Apprenticeship funding rules will not allow levy to be used for non-mandated academic award. If HEIs offer an award - how will this be funded?

**Answer:** For a non-mandatory qualification, you can use apprenticeship levy to fund relevant training and qualifications, where there is a clear overlap between the qualification and the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for the apprenticeship.

**Qu:** Do you expect the programme to offer academic credits as this is not specified in the standard?

**Answer:** For those education providers choosing to deliver the Enhanced Clinical Practice (ECP) apprenticeships at level 6 or 7 there will be the opportunity for academic credits to be applied. This could potentially be transferable to a master's programme later.

**Qu:** How can you make the ECP apprenticeship less confusing for employers, education providers and patients, especially as there is no defined academic qualification within the apprenticeship standard?

**Answer:** Education providers delivering ECP apprenticeships have already been through a procurement process to deliver the framework and progressing validation of proposed course content. However, HEE recognises this is still a developing area of practice and as a part of the national programme widespread communication, webinars and resources will be made available to employers and the public to enable a better understanding of ECP and its benefits to patients and service delivery.

**Qu:** If pre-reg apprenticeships are already at a level 7 then will people still be eligible for this scheme?

**Answer:** Yes! This apprenticeship aims to develop staff at the educational level 6 or 7. It will not be a mandated course for mid-career professional staff but will provide an alternative education opportunity following a period of practice after qualifying, as a pre-cursor to advanced practice or to develop specific enhanced skills as a career destination.

**Qu:** Is the funding for the NHS Trust or education provider?

## FAQ's HEE AHP ECP apprenticeship commission

**Answer:** This commission is looking for host organisation/partners to lead innovation partnerships per AHP profession, that can develop nationally recognised profession specific training schema and model curricula for enhanced level practice apprenticeships applicable to the individual AHP professions. Those granted the contract will receive funding for this purpose. This is an open commission and so the funding could be awarded to either NHS Trusts or education providers. Funding will be applied according to the categories outlined in the commission.

**Qu:** How can employers access funding to provide employees with access to the ECP apprenticeship?

**Answer:** This commission is concerned with the **development** of nationally recognised profession-specific training schema and model curricula for enhanced level practice apprenticeships. With regards to general information about ECP apprenticeship funding:

- The ECP apprenticeship has a funding band of £7,000.
- Apprenticeship levy can be used to fund eligible training costs.
- For further eligible training costs see: [Apprenticeship funding rules: provider organisations 2022-23](#)

The apprenticeship levy **cannot** be used to fund salaries. Employers will be responsible for managing workforce absence/backfill for those participating in the enhanced clinical practice apprenticeship.

**Qu:** Is the tender for the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) to develop content, with additional funding available per place holder and would this additional go to their NHS employer? Or is the tender inclusive of a set number of expected place holders?

**Answer:** This tender is not for the IPR associated with this initiative or funding per place holders. It is to develop nationally recognised profession specific training schema and model curricula for enhanced level practice apprenticeships applicable to the individual AHP professions. This will enable training providers to deliver high quality AHP profession specific content in ECP apprenticeship programmes. It requires model curricula to be produced per profession to provide core clinical requirements for key specialist areas of practice as agreed by the innovation partnership and critical to the AHP professions development to meet the NHS Long Term Plan.

***For this commission there is no allocated funding in this financial year for NHS employers to train their staff in ECP. This commission is about providing tools for education providers to develop and initiate enhanced practice apprenticeships by September 2023. It will be up to the individual employers to decide on service/individual need to utilise ECP apprenticeships.***

The IPR associated with the developed training schema and model curricula will be owned by Health Education England (and any successor bodies). HEE will grant current and future apprenticeship and AHP higher education providers a royalty-free licence to use these enhanced practice schema and model curricula in perpetuity. Agreement of this contractual term is a fundamental requirement to any bid and is non-negotiable.

**Qu:** Who will lead the commissioned work? Employers, many and varied (which would be challenging) or is it the education provider in collaboration with stakeholders including professional bodies.

## FAQ's HEE AHP ECP apprenticeship commission

**Answer:** The successful bidders will lead the commissioned work, via their innovative partnership. HEE's National AHP Team and the National Education Commissioning Service will provide oversight and there will be an offer of support to help drive the innovation partnerships.

**Qu:** Is this for profession specific pathways or a generic one with profession specific elements/pathways, e.g., surgical first assisting is enhanced practice for ODP (Operating Department Practitioners)?

**Answer:** This commission will ensure there is AHP profession specific content available within enhanced practice apprenticeship programmes. Education providers may choose to run a profession specific enhanced practice apprenticeship in its own right or deliver profession specific modular content within an existing multi-professional programme.

**Qu:** Are you looking for one contract to host all these apprenticeships or potentially one provider for each apprenticeship.

**Answer:** This commission requires a lead organisation per profession to coordinate and facilitate the development of the schema and model curricula. Organisations are entitled under the terms of the commission to bid for more than one professional pathway providing they meet the criteria for that profession and commit to running separate innovation partnerships for each of the professions, or professional group. The 13 innovation partnerships will cover these professions/group in scope:

- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Diagnostic Radiographers
- Therapeutic Radiographers
- Dietitians
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Paramedics
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Podiatrists
- Orthoptists
- Prosthetists and Orthotists
- Osteopathy
- Art, Music, and Drama Therapies (a group bid for this commission)

**Qu:** Are you asking us to link with our governing body and find other HEI establishments, to develop a program and submit a bid to you?

**Answer:** Successful bidders for this commission will be expected to lead their work by forming an innovation partnership with key stakeholders across the professions and provider system. There will be no mandated structure to the innovation partnerships, but the AHP professional bodies are seen as critical to support the developments. It is not envisaged that the Health and Care Professions Council, as the AHP professions regulator would need engaging in this commission.

**Qu:** I noticed the 4 practice pillars were mentioned - clinical practice, leadership and management, research, and education. How does this work for ECP? Were they not designed for advanced and consultant levels of practice? Do we complete the whole ECP course, or do we pick the pillar we hope to progress in?

**Answer:** The four pillars of clinical practice are equally applicable to the enhanced clinical practice apprenticeship as they are to the advanced and consultant level of practice education. For the enhanced level education, they will be applied with differing levels of competence. The education providers will need to ensure they align to the Knowledge, Skills, and Behaviours of the apprenticeship standard.

## FAQ's HEE AHP ECP apprenticeship commission

**Qu:** Will the human centred learning design facilitator be someone we would have to find/provide?

**Answer:** The HEE National Education Commissioning Service (NECS) have had successful experience in working with human centred learning design facilitators and would make available this knowledge to the innovation partnerships. Provision of such a facilitator via NECS would be an option to successful bidders.

**Qu:** What are XR providers?

**Answer:** XR is the acronym relating to **extended reality** – this is an umbrella term encapsulating “augmented reality,” “virtual reality” and “mixed reality” and everything in between.

**Qu:** Do XR providers provide the equipment to learners / HEIs or is this part of the costing of the tender?

**Answer:** This commission is about designing education schema and model curricula and so provision XR to learners or other HEI's is not a factor in this tender. However, the innovation partnerships will be encouraged to propose XR as a core element in the delivery of the blended training frameworks and model curricula. They may utilise the best available technology to explore and demonstrate practical application of the technology to stakeholders during the development process.

**Qu:** Will the use of HEE TEL be mandated, or can Innovation Partnerships use their own?

**Answer:** Innovation partnerships will be expected to ensure TEL is a fundamental element in the delivery of any of the educational schema or model curricula produced. The HEE National Education Commissioning Service will provide support as required to the innovation partnerships to explore the best available technology, but it will not be mandated.

**Qu:** If the bidder is encouraged to design this in a certain way using TEL from your providers, how will this work for those delivering who might not have access to this exact form of TEL?

**Answer:** The HEE National Education Commissioning Service will provide support as required to the innovation partnerships to explore the best available technology, but it will not be mandated.

**Qu:** The timeline seems tight. What support is readily available to HEI's to submit a successful bid. Do we work in partnership with someone from your team?

**Answer:** On the “procurement timeline” shared during the webinar the only deadline was that for the event on that day.

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The rest of the table shared demonstrated an indicative timeline for the procurement and met the minimum requirements for such a commission. This can be accessed in the slides for the day shared on the HEE web page, or by accessing the portal.

This is an open commission. All relevant documents required are available on the commissioning portal. There is a set period whereby clarification questions can be asked. The deadline for submission of clarification questions is the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Responses to these clarification questions will be completed by 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**Qu:** Can you signpost to more info re Innovation Partnerships?

## FAQ's HEE AHP ECP apprenticeship commission

**Answer:** Innovation partnerships is a concept being developed by the National Education Commissioning Service to deliver positive project outcomes by emphasising the benefits of co-creation, co-design, co-delivery, and co-elevation from a diverse group of stakeholders. Further information can be read in the webinar slides and the project specification available on the commission website.

**Qu:** Please can you clarify which @regulatory authorities@ this will need approving with?

**Answer:** It is not envisaged that the Health and Care Professions Council, as the AHP regulator would need engaging in this commission.

**Qu:** What is ITT? - sorry lots of abbreviations being used quickly verbally.

**Answer:** ITT is the acronym for "Invitation to Tender."

**Qu:** How do you get access to the Portal?

**Answer:** The commissioning portal for the provisions of Enhanced Practice Allied Health Professions (AHPs) project can be accessed via the following links:

- Contract finder link:  
<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b3055ca9-e744-4c5e-a983-a00c7050e086>
- Find a tender  
<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/026188-2022>

**Qu:** Could you please show the previous slide please? I could not see the final deadlines after presentation. Thank you

**Answer:** The final deadline for submission of bids via the government portal is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at 12.00 midday.

**Qu:** Some deadlines listed were today. Can we expect to see an extension to deadlines?

**Answer:** Wherever possible the timeframes given will be adhered to. This is complex work with a commitment to deliver by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The confirmed funding for this commission is applicable only to this financial year. Extending the time frames for submission would increase the risk that the project would not get delivered in this period.

**Qu:** These timelines seem very tight given that partnerships may need to be created?

**Answer:** Yes, there is significant pressure to deliver this project within the timeframes of completion by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**Qu:** How will the recording be shared / accessed?

**Answer:** The recording of the Market Interest / Meet the buyer webinar on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September will be shared via an HEE web page in the week starting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Communications via email and social media will alert all participants to the link address.

**Qu:** Could you please share a copy of the slide set?

**Answer:** The PowerPoint slide set used during the Market Interest / Meet the buyer webinar on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September will be shared via an HEE web page in the week starting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Communications via email and social media will alert all participants to the link address.