

Health Education England south east COVID-19 update bulletin (Issue 15) 10 July 2020

This bulletin covers education and training updates.

Health Education England (HEE) is working with partners to support the system-wide response to COVID-19. Our priority is to ensure trainees and learners are kept informed of immediate changes to their training and recruitment, as well as to support returners to the NHS. This bulletin should be read in conjunction with [HEE's COVID-19 webpage](#).

In this bulletin, we will provide:

- A weekly message from the Chief Executive's Office
- An overview of HEE education and training news, and our continued response to COVID-19
- An update from the [south east region](#) and the local hubs across [Kent, Surrey, and Sussex](#); [Thames Valley](#) and [Wessex](#)
- Signposting to useful resources and contact information.

We are supporting all professionals to grow to meet the needs of patients:

Message from Wendy Reid, HEE's interim Chief Executive

This [week's message](#) focuses on disruptive change and how we're thinking differently, working collaboratively and sharing our expertise in 'workforce' modelling, training, education, and redesign, not only in response to COVID-19 but also to reform training and education for the future. [Read the full message here.](#)

Webinar for Doctors at all levels of training

On Wednesday 15 July at 19:00, a webinar will be delivered aimed at Doctors at all levels of training covering training in the private sectors, shielding, and BAME research. This webinar will feature updates from colleagues within HEE, Department of Health and Social Care and a GP Trainee. To join the webinar, please add this [live Skype Broadcast link](#) to your calendar.

Developing the future Podiatry workforce

HEE is keen to capture views from across the foot health sector about sustaining the podiatry workforce supply. HEE has created a [survey](#) which will inform work around supporting the Podiatry profession and wider foot health community, this survey is based on the [developing](#)

[the future Podiatry workforce webinar](#) held on Tuesday 24 March 2020. If you would like to share your views, please complete the [survey here](#), which is open until, Friday 31 July 2020.

New blended learning Nursing degree offers flexibility and choice

HEE has signed up seven universities to a new innovative, accessible Nursing degree programme, which will start from January 2021. The seven delivery partners for the new degree are:

1. Open University and Middlesex University
2. Open University and University of West of England
3. Coventry University
4. University of Huddersfield
5. University of Sunderland,
6. University of Gloucestershire
7. Birmingham City University

To find out more, [visit HEE's website to read the full news article](#).

Accessible COVID-19 patient information resources

During [Health Information Week](#) HEE's Library and Knowledge Service have added up to date materials to their [website](#) to use when discussing Coronavirus with patients with different needs.

We are ensuring core HEE work continues to support our NHS colleagues:

HEE to invest £10 million to expand the NHS and care workforce

On Tuesday 7 July, HEE announced that £10million will be invested to help support the growth of the clinical workforce. This money will go directly towards expanding the number of placements for people studying nursing, midwifery, and selected AHP degrees. This will help us reach the NHS manifesto, and Long Term Plan goal of delivering an additional 50,000 nurses. To find out more, read the [full update on HEE's national website](#).

Bidding for additional healthcare course places and clinical placements expansion open until Friday 17 July

To help support the [growth of the clinical workforce](#), more students will have the opportunity to apply for places on Nursing, Midwifery, and Allied Health Professional (AHP) courses in England, following unprecedented demand.

Universities can still bid for more healthcare course places to support future growth as the deadline has been extended to match the Clinical Placement Expansion Programme bids. If you are a university, you can apply for additional Nursing, Midwifery, and AHP places until Friday 17 July, via the [DfE's bidding portal](#). There are also bidding forms for placement

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providers/facilitators to complete, and these need to be returned to educationfunding@hee.nhs.uk by Friday 17 July at 17:00.

Digital transformation

COVID-19 has accelerated digital transformation across the NHS, and every NHS Trust must have a strong understanding of it. HEE has been working with NHS Providers, which has published a [guide to NHS digital leadership](#). This [guide](#) aims to help NHS Trust boards lead their organisations into the next stage of digitisation.

We are making sure all professions have the training they need to make a difference:

HEE e-Learning for Health (e-LfH) updates

COVID-19 programme

The [COVID-19 e-LfH programme](#) is still being well-used by the health and care workforce, and since its launch, in March 2020, there have been 1.6 million session launches.

Recent updates on the COVID-19 e-LfH programme include:

- New resources for trainers on [infection prevention and control \(IPC\) in care homes](#) to support IPC trainers
- New resources for [Specially Sourced Items](#) to support the treatment of COVID 19: This currently comprises resources relating to Closed Suction Catheters and Central Venous Catheters
- New resources for returning doctors in primary care outlining the [Call Audit Review](#) which is part of the assurance process of the COVID-19 Clinical Assessment Service.

For more information about the programme, please visit the [COVID-19 e-LfH programme webpage](#).

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) e-learning programme

HEE e-LfH team has worked with Healthy Dialogues, the Department of Health and Social Care, and the Lancashire Foundation Trust to update the MECC e-learning programme. The programme is designed to support learners in developing an understanding of public health and the factors that impact upon health and wellbeing and focuses on how asking MECC questions and listening effectively to people is a vital skill.

There are now four sessions within the programme:

- What is MECC and why it is important
- How to have a MECC conversation
- Signposting
- Five Ways to Wellbeing.

For more information about the programme and to access the e-learning sessions, visit the [MECC e-LfH programme webpage](#).

Remote teaching solution

HEE's Technology Enhanced Learning team (TEL) has worked with professions across the health and care sector to ensure the continued provision of education by accelerating the use of digital technologies.

During the COVID-19, HEE has conducted over 500 online interviews for Foundation Year 2 posts and is planning for a further 1,500 online interviews in October. This new method of working has received positive feedback and was considered to have advantages for students and trainees.

Further information on the roll-out of the remote teaching solution using Microsoft Teams will follow over the coming weeks with details about the availability of licences and access to training materials to support the online delivery of education. Frequently Asked Questions are being produced and will be available soon on the [TEL blog](#). For more information about the remote teaching solution, please email tel@hee.nhs.uk.

Additional information and news:

Windrush Nurses and Midwives leadership programme 2020

HEE has partnered with the Florence Nightingale Foundation to offer an exciting career development opportunity to recognise the contribution of Windrush Nurses and Midwives across the NHS. The programme offers 44, band 5, 6, and 7 Nurses and Midwives from a Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background a bespoke leadership development opportunity to become Florence Nightingale Foundation Nurses and Midwives and develop as future leaders of healthcare.

Applications to the programme are now open and will close on Friday 17 July 2020, at 17:00. To find out more and apply, visit the [Florence Nightingale Foundation website](#).

Physician Associates in mental health film

In an exclusive interview for HEE, Professor Wendy Burn, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, discusses how Physician Associates play a valuable role in extending the capacity of Psychiatrists and making a positive difference by enhancing access to patient care. To find out more, [watch the full interview on HEE's YouTube channel](#).

Advanced Clinical Practitioners' emotional and spiritual wellbeing and resilience during COVID-19

The University of Huddersfield are seeking participants for its new research study into the emotional and spiritual wellbeing and resilience of Advanced Clinical Practitioners during the COVID-19 crisis.

For further information and details, please view the [online study form](#) or contact Principal Investigator, Dr Melanie Rogers, via m.roger@hud.ac.uk.

Free online COVID-19 resilience support

With support from HEE and NHS England and NHS Improvement, MindEd (one of e-LfH's programmes) launched an online resource for the health and care workforce to help build mental health and wellbeing resilience during COVID-19.

MindEd resource content includes:

- Helping each other
- Tips for managers and team leaders
- Stress and fear
- Trauma and distress
- End of life and bereavement
- Further resources.

For more information, visit the [MindEd Coronavirus Staff Resilience Hub](#), it is free to access with no requirement to register.

HEE Regional Head of Nursing vacancies in South West and North East

HEE currently has two opportunities to join the Senior Nursing and Midwifery Leadership team as Regional Head of Nursing in the [North East](#) and [South West](#). HEE is an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons. As people from BAME backgrounds are currently under-represented in HEE's workforce, we would particularly welcome applications from BAME colleagues. For further information, please visit [HEE's work with us webpage](#).

South east regional updates:

Demand for Prosthetist and Orthotist and Dietitian degree apprenticeship standards request

Elaine Lancaster, HEE South East Talent for Care Relationship Manager (Apprenticeships) is currently scoping the demand for the following AHP apprenticeship standards:

- [Prosthetist and Orthotist \(degree\)](#)
- [Dietitian \(degree\)](#)

If you have any potential starters for these apprenticeships, please contact Elaine.Lancaster@hee.nhs.uk.

Congratulations to new Nursing Associates at Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Congratulations to five newly qualified Nursing Associates (see picture on right) working at Southlands, Worthing, and St Richard's at Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who have qualified with the full support of their managers after completing their two-year foundation degrees.



Nursing associates work with people of all ages and in a variety of settings in health and social care, they are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council contributing to the core work of nursing, with the aim of freeing up Registered General Nurses (RGNs) to focus on more complex clinical care. The role also provides a new route to follow into graduate-level nursing.

A former Health Care Assistant (HCA), now nursing associate, Peggy-Jane Murrell working at Western Sussex Eye Care, Southlands said:

“Within my team, they could see there was a need for a nurse associate, so I had the full support of my manager to enrol on this course. It feels great that I can apply my new skills to benefit the team.”

Deanna Gibbs was also an HCA before qualifying as a new nursing associate working on Castle ward in Worthing. Deanna said:

“It feels great to have qualified...I can now have a bay of patients that I can attend to and I just need a supervisor to assist with the tasks that we can't do.” These include inserting an IV line or making a change to a patient's care plan.”

Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust Chief Nurse, Dr Maggie Davies, added:

“I wish to say huge congratulations to Amy, Deanna, Sarah, Kirsty, and Peggy who have marked an exciting milestone with the start of thousands of nursing associates joining the NHS over the coming years – bringing with them valuable skills which will have a hugely beneficial impact on patients. They will support our RGNs to deliver safe, high-quality care, and crucially help free up their time to focus on more specialised areas of patient treatment.”

Lauren Smith, HEE Workforce Transformation Manager, says:

"Congratulations and welcome to Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Nursing Associates who will be a vital part of the wider health and care service. HEE South East looks forward to working with employers and future learners to ensure we implement this new role successfully and continue to develop our nursing workforce."

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To find out more about Nursing Associates, visit [HEE's Nursing Associate webpage](#).

KSS Hub

KSS staff continue to work remotely, they are well equipped and are available on email, mobile, Microsoft Teams, and Skype.

Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education (PGMDE)

The Healthcare Education Team (HET) can be contacted for any medical and dental trainee enquires via the [support portal](#) in the first instance. Trainees should be aware that the HET team are working hard to respond to queries, and that they should explore the FAQs available first to see whether their query has already been raised and addressed by someone else.

Quality

All students, trainees, and learners have been informed on how they can raise any concerns related to their clinical learning environment via their professional/educational networks. In the case of significant or urgent concerns which has not been possible to resolve using local or usual routes, trainees can contact HEE directly via the emerging concerns email for all learners on EscalatingConcerns.KSSQuality@hee.nhs.uk.

This email inbox will be monitored closely by the senior dean team and should only be used where local resolution has not been possible.

Pharmacy

The KSS pharmacy team continues to ensure that trainees, educators, and pharmacy leads are kept informed of any changes to the programme of activity in the short term and have a dedicated COVID-19 webpage on the pharmacy website, which is updated daily. The team can also be contacted via lasepharmacy@hee.nhs.uk.

Further contact

For all other KSS learners (incl. SAS Doctors) or business support enquiries, the team can be contacted on Business.KSS@hee.nhs.uk.

Wessex Hub

Wessex staff continue to work remotely, they are well equipped and are available on email, mobile, and Skype.

Leadership development opportunity or SAS Doctors (all medical specialties) in Thames Valley and Wessex

A fully funded leadership development opportunity is now available for SAS Doctors (all medical specialties) in HEE South East - Thames Valley and Wessex. This is a unique, bespoke opportunity to garner the hands-on experience of real-life healthcare leadership beyond the confines of routine clinical practice. For further information & application details, please email the project team heeeclipsprog@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk.

Quality

The Wessex quality team will continue to liaise with trust providers to keep up to date where concerns exist, particularly where triggered visits have been cancelled. This will be done in a proportionate way to reduce the workload for providers. The Wessex Quality Committee will continue to meet virtually to review current educational quality issues and deal with new concerns. The quality team can be contacted with any concerns via quality.wx@hee.nhs.uk.

Pharmacy

The HEE South Pharmacy team continues to ensure that trainees, educators, and pharmacy leads are kept informed of any changes to the programme of activity in the short term. There is a dedicated Pharmacy page on the HEE website. The South pharmacy team can be contacted via Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk.

Thames Valley Hub

Thames Valley staff continue to work remotely, they are well equipped and are available on email, mobile, and Skype.

Leadership development opportunity or SAS Doctors (all medical specialties) in Thames Valley and Wessex

A fully funded leadership development opportunity is now available for SAS Doctors (all medical specialties) in HEE South East - Thames Valley and Wessex. This is a unique, bespoke opportunity to garner the hands-on experience of real-life healthcare leadership beyond the confines of routine clinical practice. For further information & application details, please email the project team heeclipsprog@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk.

Quality

Trainees will continue to be able to report any concerns directly as per the Thames Valley escalating concerns process. For further information please contact the Thames Valley quality team on escalatingconcernstv@hee.nhs.uk. The quality team can be contacted on quality.TV@hee.nhs.uk.

Pharmacy

The HEE South Pharmacy team continues to ensure that trainees, educators, and pharmacy leads are kept informed of any changes to the programme of activity in the short term. There is a dedicated Pharmacy page on the HEE website. The South pharmacy team can be contacted via Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk.

Thank you for reading and further information:

By following [@NHS_HealthEdEng](https://twitter.com/NHS_HealthEdEng) on Twitter you can keep up to date with new information and resources as they are published. Most importantly are the notifications of webinars being broadcast during the week.

Right now, making sure we are communicating properly is incredibly important. If there's any information you think is missing on the [HEE webpages](#), please let us know by submitting your question to the [HEE Q&A helpdesk](#).

If you have any direct queries regarding this bulletin, please email SouthEastRegionalTeam@hee.nhs.uk.

Useful resources:

HEE's national COVID-19 page: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/COVID-19-COVID-19>

Primary Care COVID-19: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/COVID-19/primary-care/>

Secondary Care COVID-19: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/COVID-19/secondary-care/>

UK Government: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

General Medical Council – information and support news: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/news/news-archive/COVID-19-information-and-advice>

General Dental Council: <https://www.gdc-uk.org/>

Health and Care Professions Council: <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/registrants/updates/2020/how-we-will-continue-to-regulate-in-light-of-novel-COVID-19/>

Nursing and Midwifery Council: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/news/news-and-updates/how-we-will-continue-to-regulate-in-light-of-novel-COVID-19/>

General Pharmaceutical Council: <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/>

e-learning for Healthcare COVID-19 programme: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/COVID-19/>
