

Health Education England south east COVID-19 update bulletin (Issue four) 24 April 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 the [National HEE COVID-19 webpage here](#).

In this bulletin we will provide:

- An overview of HEE and our partner's national response to COVID-19
- An update from the [south east region](#) and the local offices across [Kent, Surrey, and Sussex](#); [Thames Valley](#) and [Wessex](#)
- Signposting to useful resources and contact information

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

As of 21 April 2020, HEE has supported around 20,000 nurses and midwives, 3,000 doctors and over 400 Allied Health Professionals (data collection ongoing) to join the NHS front line. We also estimate that around 2,200 medical students from years one to four are volunteering in a variety of ways. Collectively that is around 25,000 students and trainees either directly deployed or volunteering.

Healthcare Scientists

HEE are supporting over 50% of the final year Scientist Training Programme (STP) cohort on to the Health and Care Professions Council temporary register to allow them to use their skills differently to their normal working day. Trainees on the Higher Specialist Scientist Training Programme (HSST) have also been offered a pause in training while they focus on COVID-19 work.

HEE and the National School of Healthcare Science have decided to cancel the interview event for admissions to the 2020 STP. To find out more visit their [webpage here](#).

Physician Associates (PA)

As part of our work to ensure a consistent, safe approach to the rapid deployment of student clinicians into the front line we have worked with the Faculty of Physician Associates at the Royal College of Physicians and regional teams to prepare model role descriptors for the PA workforce. The Faculty of Physician Associates have set up a COVID-19 special temporary register for graduate student PAs who have completed their University programmes but have yet to pass the PA national exam. [Further information can be accessed here.](#)

Supported Return to Training

If you missed our knowledge refresher and wellbeing webinars for doctors returning to training, [you can watch them online here.](#)

Nursing and Midwifery Students

If you missed our webinar last Friday with our Chief Nurse, Mark Radford, and Jess Sainsbury, Chair of the Royal College of Nursing Students Committee, [you can view the webinar recording here.](#)

Continuation of academic study and supervision in practice was a prime consideration in developing plans for students with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and other partners. We have more sessions coming too, so keep an eye out for these.

Allied Health Professional (AHPs)

HEE is asking universities to contact their eligible AHP students to discuss their options for using their education programme to help with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, you can find the [student support guidance and joint AHP leads letter under the student support guidance during COVID-19 header here.](#)

Pharmacy

Joint guidance on facilitating the deployment of pharmacy undergraduate students to support the pharmacy workforce [can be accessed here.](#)

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

Several changes have been introduced for the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCPs) scheduled to take place before August 2020, to enable as many trainees to progress to the next stage in their training as possible.

[To find out more about these changes visit our COVID-19 webpage here.](#)

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

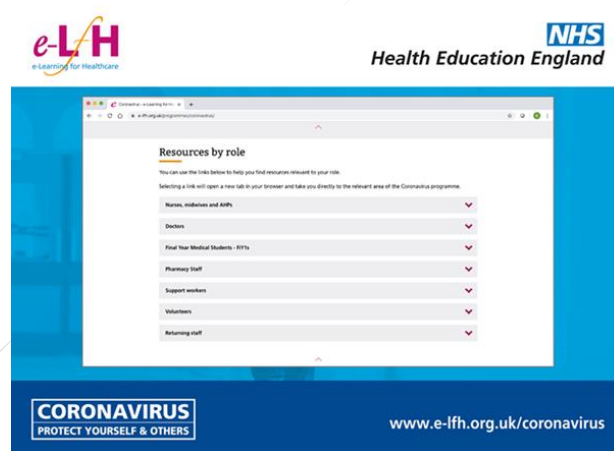
HEE e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH)

The COVID-19 programme is still being used extensively by the health and care workforce responding to the pandemic. To date, it has been launched over 800,000 times since it went live last month. The content is also being accessed in 98 countries across the world via [eIntegrity](#).

In response to feedback from users, you can now access content on the COVID-19 programme by selecting your role from a drop-down box on the [e-LfH website](#). Short [“how to” videos](#) to help users with the registration process and accessing content are also now available.

There are now resources for most members of the health and care workforce working in a range of settings including [resources for Nurses, Midwives and AHPs Returning to work, being Redeployed or Up-Skilled](#). There are also pathways for those who are internationally trained, from the independent sector, and students who have opted into a revised programme structure.

[Click here to find out more and to access the COVID-19 programme.](#)



Supporting the wellbeing of the NHS workforce:

HEE will be implementing a Wellness Induction for all Interim Foundation Year 1 doctors. The induction aims to help maintain wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will provide personal guidance and signposting to services and resources. We're also investigating how to adapt it for other parts of the workforce.

South east regional updates:

Thank you to Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust colleagues

HEE South East would like to thank our critical care colleagues at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, who kindly provided our e-LfH team with resources and guidance for staff working in the critical care setting for the [COVID-19 e-learning](#)

[programme](#). We aim to deliver physical copies of these resources to our critical care units across the south east over the next few weeks.

Interim Foundation Year 1s across the south east

Nearly 350 final year medical students, who have been fast-tracked and graduated very recently, have opted for early registration with the GMC as Interim Foundation Year 1 (FiY1s) and have been allocated to placements within Trusts across the south east. The FiY1s were allocated in line with the national guidance and with full liaison with employing Trusts. FiY1s are joining Trusts in the locality of their medical school, or the Trust in which they were due to commence their Foundation Year 1 in August. The next cohort of FiY1s are in the process of being allocated.

Information and support for nurses working in general practice

The Wessex Local Medical Committee and HEE south east have developed an [information and support for nurses working in general practice guide](#). The guide aims to recognise nurses' current practice during COVID-19, encourages nurses to reflect on what has been learned, and start thinking about the future of the general practice nursing role. We hope all general practice nurses across the south east region find this document useful and informative.

Kent, Surrey, and Sussex (KSS) office:

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

Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education (PGMDE)

Relevant KSS medical and dental COVID-19 response and trainee updates can be found [online here](#). The Healthcare Education Team (HET) can be contacted for any medical and dental trainee enquires via the [support portal here](#) in the first instance. Trainees should be aware that the HET team are working around the clock 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

HEE decided to pause routine quality monitoring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. HEE has a duty of care and a regulatory responsibility to ensure the safety, supervision, and induction of trainees/students, particularly during this time. The KSS quality team have written to trusts to inform them of this position and to highlight where any outstanding actions from previous interventions may need mutually agreed proportionate quality management principles applied at this time.

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 have 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 hasn't been possible.

It has been necessary to amend the KSS quality and primary care team's response to the COVID-19 outbreak and how the quality functions in this area will operate during this period. The team will be sending a communication to all relevant trainers highlighting the process for their specific circumstances.

The KSS quality team are working with professional leads, Heads of Schools and stakeholders to develop and consider areas or work to aid recovery plans. These are to ensure that the quality function is appropriate and reflects supporting safe and effective education in clinical learning environments.

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 also created 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 via Business.KSS@hee.nhs.uk.

Wessex office:

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

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.

PGMDE

Wessex has set up a COVID-19 wellbeing service for trainees run by the professional support unit. The service includes online self-help advice and information for trainees and trainers as well as a self-referral for counselling and support by an experienced case

manager or coach. The case managers and coaches are receiving inductions and training specific to psychological support during this unprecedented time. The support offered is specifically for psychological wellbeing and coping with anxiety, stress, and uncertainty.

Pharmacy

The HEE south pharmacy team is working to ensure that trainees, educators, and pharmacy leads are kept informed of any changes to our programme of activity in the short term and will be communicating accordingly with the relevant groups in the coming days and weeks. The HEE south pharmacy team can be contacted on Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk.

Thames Valley office:

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

PGMDE

Whilst Thames Valley does not have a Nightingale Hospital in its region, some Thames Valley trainees have expressed a wish to work at the Nightingale Hospital in London. There is a specific process in place for any trainees who wish to do this, and they are advised to seek approval from their employer and educational supervisor, Training Programme Director, or Head of School before contacting the Thames Valley Postgraduate Dean, Dr Michael Bannon.

Quality

Trainees will continue to be able to report any concerns directly as per the [Thames Valley escalating concerns process here](#). 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 is working to ensure that trainees, educators, and pharmacy leads are kept informed of any changes to our programme of activity in the short term and will be communicating accordingly with the relevant groups in the coming days and weeks. The HEE south pharmacy team can be contacted on Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk.

Thank you for reading and further information:

By following [@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 found this update useful or have any other suggestions for future updates, please send us your [anonymised feedback here](#).

Any direct queries can be sent to HEEKSSProgrammes@hee.nhs.uk.

Useful resources:

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

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

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

UK Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-COVID-19-list-of-guidance>

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

General Dental Council: <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/registrants/updates/2020/how-we-will-continue-to-regulate-in-light-of-novel-coronavirus>

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

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

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

The Joyful Doctor: <https://www.joyfuldoctor.com/>

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

COVID-19 Simulation Community:
<https://future.nhs.uk/system/login?nextURL=%2Fconnect%2Eti%2FCovid19simulation%2FgroupHome>
