

Health Education England south east COVID-19 update bulletin (Issue seven) 15 May 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 [HEE COVID-19 webpage here](#).

In this bulletin we will provide:

- An overview and call for evidence from HEE and our partner's national 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 professions to rapidly grow to meet the needs of patients:

Call for evidence - What learning points has COVID-19 exposed, in terms of how we can rapidly define the 'new future' for education and training?

As HEE and the wider NHS begins to plan the restart, recovery, and reform of core business, we need to ensure that we do not lose the innovations, opportunities, and benefits from the collective actions and decisions taken to support the COVID-19 response.

As part of embedding the positive changes and innovations achieved during COVID-19, HEE are keen to hear the views and insights from partners and stakeholders to questions such as:

- How was the urgent effort to deploy our workforce during the COVID-19 surge achieved?
- What did we do that was different that aided the rapid response?
- What opportunities has the crisis highlighted that we should grasp?
- How can we use learning to build a resilient future for the workforce, and education and training?
- What are the implications of COVID-19 for our workforce and education reform?
- What positive changes have we made in education and training that we do not want to lose going forwards?

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If you would like to contribute your views and find out more, please contact us at C19Lessons@hee.nhs.uk.

Joint statement on planned placements in England

HEE has [published a joint statement](#) along with the Council of Deans of Health, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), and NHS Employers. This statement expands on the previous [NMC](#) and [HCPC](#) emergency measures to support the COVID-19 response and clarifies how planned placements for nursing, midwifery and allied health profession (AHP) students should be used.

Join the advanced practice conversation

HEE has launched an [online advanced practice workshop](#) to gain insights on the impact of COVID-19 and the implications for advanced clinical practice in the future.

The findings will enable HEE, NHS Employers, professional and representative bodies, regulators, and healthcare professionals to shape plans to support COVID-19 demands and people presenting with non-COVID-19 needs. The feedback will also shape the development, education, utilisation, and deployment of advanced practice.

Please [visit the online workshop here](#) to provide your insights into the experiences of advanced and consultant level practitioners during COVID-19.

Physician Associates

The Faculty of Physician Associates (PAs) 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. To find more visit the [Faculty of PAs webpage here](#).

Nursing

On Tuesday 12 May, the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, marked International Nurses Day, a chance to celebrate the role of nurses as clinicians, leaders, researchers, and educators across the globe.

Many of the planned celebrations were postponed as a result of COVID-19, but HEE took the opportunity to thank the nursing community and acknowledge the vital work that they do, which has never been more important than in the current time. HEE's Chief Nurse, Mark Radford, led [HEE's virtual celebrations](#) and premiered the [International Nurses Day 2020 film](#) to mark the occasion.

Science Training Programme (STP) assessment and completion in 2020 for third-year STP trainees and training officers

On Friday 15 May at 14:00, Jane Lynch, Training Programme Director of the STP and Sandie Gay, Head of Education & Assessment at the National School of Healthcare Science, will be hosting a webinar aimed at third-year trainees and training officers to answer questions about completion and the alternative to the Objective Structure Final

Assessment, the Independent Assessment of Clinical Competence. To find out more and join the webinar [visit the STP website here](#).

Doctors returning to training

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

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

COVID-19 patient information for vulnerable groups

HEE's Library and Knowledge Services have worked with Public Health England, NHS England and Improvement, and the Patient Information Forum to collate trusted, accessible online patient information resources for all frontline staff across health, social care and voluntary organisations who work directly with patients and family groups. To find out more [visit HEE's Library and Knowledge Services website here](#).

Health Careers

This year's Step into the NHS primary school competition for key stage 2 children submission deadline has now been extended until Friday 19 June. More pupils can now draw, write, act, or dance their 'thank you's to the NHS. To find out more, please [visit the Step into the NHS website here](#).



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

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

This week the e-LfH COVID-19 e-learning programme reached the milestone of one million session launches since it went live in mid-March.

The e-LfH team has recently added the following to their COVID-19 programme:

- New resources for radiographers, the content includes minimising risk using PPE and infection control, how to safely use mobile equipment, and optimising image quality. The [resources can be accessed here](#).
- Three new training videos for staff working in a critical care setting, an acute hospital setting and to support staff with difficult conversation and end of life care. The [videos can be accessed here](#).

- A guidance for psychologists titled “Adaptations to psychological practice: Interim guidance during COVID-19 pandemic”. The [guidance can be accessed here](#).

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

The Learning Hub – COVID-19 release

The Learning Hub will be released at the end of May 2020 to support the COVID-19 response. The Learning Hub will be a new digital platform that will provide easy access to a wide range of resources that are pertinent to education and training in health and care. Users will be able to contribute digital resources (including video, audio, images, documents, weblinks, articles, etc.) and search and access the variety of learning resources that will have been contributed by stakeholders and the health and care workforce to support system readiness and recovery from COVID-19.

If you would to find out more about The Learning Hub, please follow [@HEE_TEL on Twitter](#), [read the TEL blog](#), and look out for regular updates over the next few weeks.

Queen’s Nursing Institute (QNI) resources to support community nurses and nursing students who work with carers

The QNI has developed several [online resources](#) to support community nurses and nursing students who work with carers.

The QNI’s interactive toolkit includes learning resources for:

- [District nurses](#)
- [General practice nurses](#)
- [School nurses \(includes information about young carers\)](#)

The free-access [interactivity tool](#) designed for nursing students is also now available for tutors to use in a classroom setting or for students working individually. The tool uses the QNI’s online learning resources and includes questions, video clips, patient scenarios, and case studies.

Supporting the wellbeing of the NHS workforce

HEE podcasts

HEE’s Professional Support Unit (PSU) has released two new professional development and SuppoRTT podcasts to support trainees during COVID-19. The most recent podcast episodes are:

- Finding balance in the pandemic
- Training and workforce deployment in the face of a pandemic

To find out more and to listen, please visit either [HEE’s anchor.fm profile here](#) or [HEE’s Spotify profile here](#).

Our NHS People guides

On the [Our NHS People website](#), there is a range of freely accessible guides developed to support [#OurNHSPeople](#). The guides provide information and support on personal resilience, financial wellbeing, managing stress, and much more.

South east regional updates:

South east AHP student placement webinar

On Monday 4 May, HEE south east delivered an AHP student placement webinar to support the implementation of HEE's guidance and processes on AHP student deployment in response to COVID-19. If you were unable to join the webinar, you can now watch [the full webinar recording here](#). The [standard operating procedure to support the deployment of AHP students in the south east can be viewed here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Tyrell, HEE south east acting AHP Workforce Lead via Rebecca.Tyrell@hee.nhs.uk.

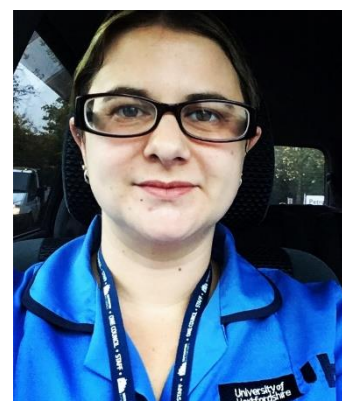
South east student placements

As part of the COVID-19 response, HEE south east has been working with NHS trusts and Higher Education Institutes to enable students to enter extended work placements. To date in the south east, almost 3,000 students have taken the opportunity to gain valuable experience and support the response to COVID-19. The students across the south east include 1,945 students across all fields of nursing, 422 midwifery students, and 598 AHP students.

We caught up with a Learning Disability (LD) Nursing student, Becky Boxall (pictured on the right) from Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. Becky elected to take the optional extended placement in her final year of training to be an LD nurse and hopes to graduate in December 2020.

Becky said:

"I feel privileged to be working at Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust to help in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has given me such a valuable experience so that I can hit the ground running. I am treated just like a member of the team and love that the work is so varied, working in the community means that no two days are ever the same".



On behalf of HEE, we would like to thank Becky for opting-in to take up a paid placement during this time. If you have a story to share with us for our next issue, please email SouthEastRegionalTeam@hee.nhs.uk.

KSS Hub:

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.

The KSS PSU team has set up drop-in sessions for trainees to discuss training concerns in a confidential space. The next drop-in sessions will be on Monday 18 May at 19:30, and Thursday 21 May at 11:00. To find out more and to book onto the drop-in sessions, please visit the [booking webpage here](#).

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 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 has not been possible.

The KSS Quality Team, alongside other workstreams, are starting to reflect on lessons learned so far during the pandemic and how these will inform our work and processes over the coming months. We will be in touch with our stakeholders to seek input and share relevant information.

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 Hub:

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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.

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 Hub:

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

PAs

Efforts are underway to explore the possibility of PA students being deployed to support the response to COVID-19. The PA Ambassador project will continue, and we hope to appoint a PA Improvement Fellow with a focus on enhancing other professional's perceptions of the PA role. For more information, please contact Tessa Candy, Associate Workforce Transformation Lead via Tess.candy@hee.nhs.uk.

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 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.org.uk/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/>
