

## Health Education England south east COVID-19 update bulletin (Issue nine) 29 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 [HEE's COVID-19 webpage](#).

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.

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

#### **Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP) webinar**

The next medical webinar will take place on Wednesday 3 June, at 19:00. This webinar will focus on ARCPs and will be led by Professor Sheona MacLeod, Acting Director of Education and Quality and Executive Medical Director, as well as guest speakers from the General Medical Council and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

The webinar link will be shared on the [@NHS\\_HealthEdEng Twitter account](#) nearer the start time.

#### **Medical training rotations webinar**

On Tuesday 26 May 2020, HEE delivered a medical training rotation webinar. The session covered the COVID-19 response so far and an overview of plans for the August rotations. The recording of the webinar will soon be available on [HEE's YouTube channel](#) and will be added to the next issue of this bulletin.

## Feedback sessions for healthcare learners

HEE has sent a call to healthcare learners deployed during COVID; this includes student Allied Health Professionals (AHPs), Nurses, Midwives, and Interim Foundation Doctors. HEE will be running the virtual feedback sessions on Thursday 4 and Monday 8 June; to specifically capture learners' experiences around support and training. Please email [quality@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:quality@hee.nhs.uk) to get involved with these feedback sessions.

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

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

The [COVID-19 e-LfH programme](#) is still being well used by the health and care workforce and has been launched over one million times since it went live mid-March 2020.

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

- [A second learning path for staff working in primary care and community settings called "Supporting Patient Mental Health for the whole workforce"](#)
- [A new learning path titled "Support for Supervisors"](#)
- [Support sessions for radiographers, radiologists, and breast clinicians National Breast Imaging Academy programme.](#)

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

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## Supporting the wellbeing of the NHS workforce

[Maudsley Learning](#) has collaborated with the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust and [FutureLearn](#) to create a free online learning course to help participants identify the factors specific to COVID-19 that impact our well-being and mental health – at an individual, group and societal level.

This course would be useful for the public as it considers the issues from a wide range of perspectives. It would benefit mental healthcare service users, carers, families, and health and social care workers, in addition to anyone else impacted by COVID-19 across society. It has a special focus on healthcare workforce issues.

To find out more and participate in the free mental health course visit the [FutureLearn website](#).

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## South east regional updates:

### South east multi-professional recovery plans

As the initial COVID-19 surge settles, HEE is entering the next phase of trainee, student, and workforce support and development work. Detailed recovery plans are being developed across south east region, to manage not only all the 'normal' areas of activity such as assessment, provision of education, recruitment, and general learner support but also the multitude of COVID-19-generated challenges for education and training.

These plans will include:

- managing issues around shielding
- the use of remote and digital teaching
- handling virtual recruitment and assessments
- dealing with the complexities COVID-19 has posed for placement and rotation management, out of programme periods (OOPs), extensions, exam support, redeployments and the acquisition of skills and knowledge impacted by the initial COVID-19 surge.

This will be achieved through collaboration and the sharing of new approaches with Trusts, Primary Care networks, Universities, and NHS England and NHS Improvement. As a region, we believe we will be as well prepared as we can be during this unpredictable time. Our teams have been able to continue this work despite being largely isolated from each other-yet connected as never before through virtual communication networks.

We will embrace many of these new ways of working in the longer term, whilst continuing to put patients' and learners' safety and wellbeing at the centre of all that we do.

### 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 on the [PGMDE team's website](#). 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 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](mailto: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 has confirmed their recovery and restoration plans and will begin to engage with external stakeholders around what this looks like in terms of quality interventions and processes over the coming months.

## 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](mailto:lasepharmacy@hee.nhs.uk).

The pharmacy team have released their [2019/20 annual report](#) which provides an overview of the progress on regional pharmacy programmes and key achievements, including: supporting the regional rollout of the community pharmacy consultation service (CPCS); commissioning of a new pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician qualification; the expansion of the East Sussex Better Together foundation pharmacist pilot; and establishing a dedicated pharmacy careers programme.

The team has also published its [2020/21 business plan](#) outlining key priorities and strategies for communicating with stakeholders.

## 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](mailto:Business.KSS@hee.nhs.uk).

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## Wessex Hub

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](mailto: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](mailto:Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk).

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## **Thames Valley Hub**

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

## **Staff updates**

Dr Asif Ali has been appointed and is now in post as Associate Dean for Education & Development within Thames Valley, succeeding Jane Siddall.

Dr Ali is a Consultant Physician in Diabetes & Endocrinology at Milton Keynes Hospital and brings with him a wealth of experience in Medical Education having held several roles, including that of Training Programme Director and Chair of the SAC.

## **ARCPs**

Preparations are well underway for the forthcoming ARCP season, and adjustments have been made to the process to accommodate the impact of COVID-19 on postgraduate medical training. As part of this new process, trainees are required in addition to submission of their form R, to complete a self-declaration form which documents their perceptions regarding the impact of the pandemic has had on their training.

Over 100 self-declaration forms have been received so far, and we are pleased to note that trainees found their experience in dealing with the pandemic to be positive and felt that they had learned much from the process – they were also glad that they could contribute to the management of the pandemic.

## **Trainee wellbeing**

As a result of feedback from our training advisory committee, we are undertaking an additional initiative to support trainee wellbeing during the current pandemic. Trainees have said there was an overwhelming amount of information on trainee wellbeing and a more unified approach might be more acceptable. A project is now underway between Thames Valley's Professional Support Unit and a Training Quality Improvement Fellow to try and consolidate wellbeing information for trainees with the development of an algorithm.

## 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](mailto:escalatingconcernstv@hee.nhs.uk). The quality team can be contacted on [quality.TV@hee.nhs.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk).

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## 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](mailto:SouthEastRegionalTeam@hee.nhs.uk).

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## 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/>

Heath 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/>

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