

## South West COVID-19 Workforce and Training Cell Bulletin – 19 June 2020

This weekly bulletin aims to provide a summary of key information and updates on COVID-19 guidance that has been shared to date. It should be read in conjunction with the national COVID-19 advice and guidance hosted by [Health Education England](#) and [NHS England and NHS Improvement](#).

The south west COVID-19 workforce and training cell is operational from 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

[COVID19workforce.sw@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:covid19workforce.sw@hee.nhs.uk) / Out of hours emergencies: 01454 252 679

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- Mobile and broadband enhancements for NHS staff
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### Student placements

We would like to thank all those students who were able to come forward to support the NHS at this challenging time. It has been hugely appreciated. To be clear it is absolutely untrue to suggest that student nurses and midwives are being made redundant, all student nurses and midwives are required to complete placements during their training. These placements are normally unpaid but to recognise the special circumstances and as part of the response to COVID-19 these hours have been paid and will be until the end of summer. NHS England has been provided with the funding for student salaries as part of the response to COVID-19.

Year 3 students will be paid till 31 July and if they have completed hours and assessments can qualify and be paid as full registered nurses. They will move from Band 4 to Band 5 and therefore increase their pay. Any Year 3 student who has hours to complete will be paid until September to allow them to do this. Any year 2 students on placement till July 31st will be paid and after this normal non-paid placements will be re-introduced along with Year 1 students. We committed at the outset of the pandemic to ensure that these students complete their training and are able to qualify. It was always made clear to students who opted into paid placements the arrangements would need to come to an end at an appropriate point so that

students could return to their supernumerary status to complete their registered nursing qualifications as quickly as possible to permanently enter the NHS workforce.

It was agreed by all partners, including the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and Council of Deans (CoD) and unions, to support these arrangements. This means any final year student who has been working in the NHS will receive funding until they complete their programme and then they will be able to register with the NMC and apply for a permanent role as a registered Nurse.

### **Mobile and broadband enhancements for NHS staff**

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced that most telecommunications providers pledged to provide personal mobile data and broadband enhancements to identified frontline NHS staff who are existing customers, throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We need your support in getting these generous offers to those in need. You can do this by ensuring a process is in place which triages offer requests from staff. Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are supporting this process for primary care organisations. We thank those organisations that have already successfully implemented a process so far.

For those that still need to put a process in place, the vital information you need is available [here](#). The website will guide you through step by step, allowing you to help the colleagues who need it. The offers vary between telecommunication providers and some are time limited. For six providers ([listed on the website](#)), staff can contact the provider direct to access the deal. For those that require triage via their organisation, please ensure a simple process is in place.

Telecommunication providers are sharing the website with consumers if they are approached directly. In addition, the website will also be added to the NHS staff offers page for clinicians soon. Please be aware that this broadcast may mean you see an influx of queries from staff. Thank you for your support in enabling NHS staff to benefit from these offers and improve their ability to work throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact [data.help@nhs.net](mailto:data.help@nhs.net).

### **Message from HEE Interim Chief Executive, Professor Wendy Reid**

“To safeguard our future workforce supply, we need to minimise disruption to training and get it back on track.” [Read the full message here](#).

### **ARCP webinar**

On 3 June, HEE hosted a webinar for medical trainees on ARCPs. The recording of the webinar is now available on the [HEE YouTube channel](#).

## Choose GP

The next round of GP specialty training applications opens from 28 July – 13 August (for a February 2021 start). Follow 'Choose GP' on [Facebook](#) or find case studies, FAQs and career information on the [GP National Recruitment Office \(GP NRO\) website](#).

## Enhancing junior doctors' working lives – update report 2020

At a time of challenging service and workforce pressures, we remain committed to supporting junior doctors. COVID-19 has impacted all of us in ways we could have never imagined but has shown more than ever that the strength of the NHS is its workforce, which has shown incredible depth of compassion, strength, and adaptability. The [Enhancing Junior Doctors' Working Lives progress report 2020](#) provides an update on achievements over the past year.

  
Health Education England

### This year's Enhancing Junior Doctors' Working Lives report 2020

- Expanded the **Less Than Full Time training pilot** to all junior doctors in Paediatrics and in Obstetrics & Gynaecology.
- Working with the Royal College of Physicians, commenced recruitment for the second cohort of **Flexible Portfolio Training**.
- Pilots for **Out of Programme Pause** went live in selected specialties across four local office sites.
- The **Supported Return to Training (SuppoRTT)** programme has become an integral part of HEE core services.
- The first-year evaluation report showed that over 750 junior doctors accessed **SuppoRTT** during a 6-month period.
- **Foundation Priority Programmes** introduced to attract and support doctors in under-doctored geographies and shortage specialty areas. The first cohort of foundation junior doctors will begin in post in August 2020.



## e-Learning for Healthcare

The e-LfH COVID-19 programme has now seen 1.45m session launches since it went live in March 2020. The programme is free to access and the requirement to register has been removed to make it as easy as possible for the health and care workforce to access the range of resources to support them responding to the pandemic. For more information please visit: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/coronavirus/>

## Learning Hub live - how it can help you share and collaborate

The Learning Hub is a new digital platform, developed by Health Education England, that provides easy access to a wide range of resources that are pertinent to education and training in health and care. New features will be frequently released to provide a comprehensive learning experience for users.

Since the launch of the Learning Hub at the end of May 2020, there have been over 500 learning resources contributed by stakeholders on the platform. Resources

have been contributed by medical schools, operational delivery networks, training hubs, clinical commissioning groups, professional bodies, simulation networks, charities and social care organisations. These contributions offer and support a wide range of training delivery from videos and webinar recordings, e-learning, slide presentations, Q&A packs, simulation scripts, lesson plans to web links.

Read our latest [case study from the London Training Hubs](#) on how the Learning Hub is helping them to share resources and work collaboratively across primary, secondary and social care.

If your organisation has resources you wish to share and contribute to the platform please email [enquiries@learninghub.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@learninghub.nhs.uk).

You can sign in to the Learning Hub (<https://learninghub.nhs.uk>) either using your e-Learning for Healthcare Hub username and password or by creating an account on the Learning Hub and using those details.

For more information about the Learning Hub follow us on Twitter: @HEE\_TEL, visit: [telblog.hee.nhs.uk](http://telblog.hee.nhs.uk) to read blogs about our journey so far or visit: [www.hee.nhs.uk/tel](http://www.hee.nhs.uk/tel).

### **Survey of students and learners exploring impact of COVID-19**

HEE's RePAIR (Reducing Pre-registration Attrition and Improving Retention) team is exploring the impact of changes to education-provision as a result of COVID-19 on attrition and retention of students and learners. The first step of this work is a survey, which is being supported by the national quality team, and uses questions drawn from previous National Education and Training Survey and RePAIR surveys. This launched on 1 June and has gone out to all student nurses, midwives, AHPs, medical and dental students and physicians associates, and undergraduate students studying the health care sciences. Foundation in year 1 doctors are also asked to complete the survey.

11,807 responses have been received so far. We ask that all learners are encouraged to participate until the closing date on 30 June 2020.

<https://poll.hee.nhs.uk/s/2KX1WC/?route=opt2>

FOR ANY QUERIES OR ISSUES, PLEASE EMAIL:  
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