

Stakeholder Briefing – Issue 2

Key Messages and links to 21st April 2020

Welcome to Health Education England's weekly COVID-19 stakeholder bulletin.

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.

In this bulletin we will provide:

- Overview of HEE and our partner's national response to COVID-19
- An update from your regional office
- Signposting to useful resources and contact information

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

As at 21st April 2020, HEE has supported around 20,000 nurses and midwives, 3,000 doctors and over 400 AHPs (data collection ongoing) to join the NHS front line. We also estimate that around 2,200 medical students from years 1-4 are volunteering in a variety of ways. Collectively that is around 25,000 students and trainees either directly deployed or volunteering.

Healthcare Scientists – Supporting over 50% of the final year Scientist Training Programme (STP) cohort on to the HCPC 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.

Physician Associates - 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. [More information here.](#)

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

Nursing and Midwifery Students – If you missed our webinar last Friday with Chief Nurse, Mark Radford and Jess Sainsbury, Chair of the Royal College of Nursing Students Committee, [you can view a 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 do look out for these.

Allied Health Professionals – Health Education England is asking universities to contact their eligible Allied Health Professional (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 on under the Student Support Guidance during COVID-19 drop down here](#).

Pharmacy - Joint guidance on facilitating the deployment of pharmacy undergraduate students to support the pharmacy workforce [is available here](#).

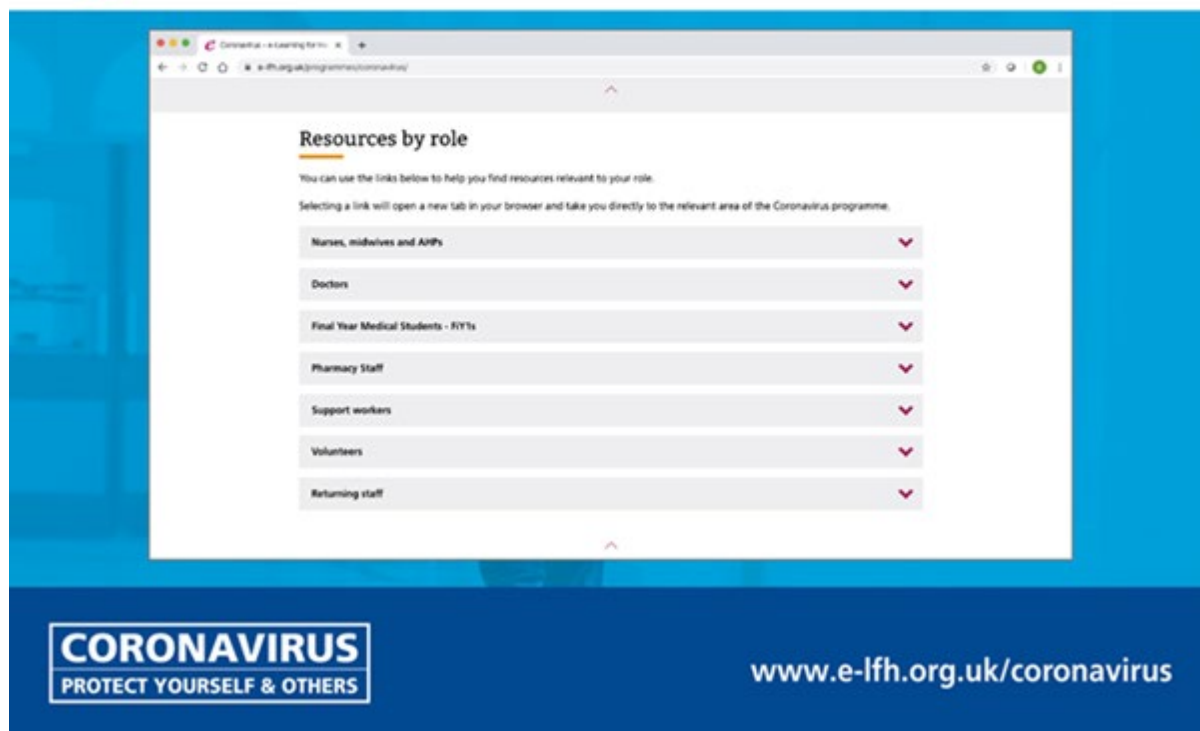
We are ensuring core HEE work to support our NHS colleagues continues:

Several changes have been introduced for ARCPs scheduled to take place before August 2020, to enable as many trainees to progress to the next stage in their training as possible. [Find out more about these changes here under the Training drop down 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 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](#) including pathways for those who are internationally trained, from the independent sector and students who have opted into a revised programme structure.

[Click here for more information and to access the programme.](#)

Supporting the wellbeing of the NHS workforce by:

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

REGIONAL UPDATE

Medical:

Impact for Code of Practice - Information relating to existing trainees and those newly appointed in Round 1 recruitment will be available to Trusts 12 weeks before the rotation date in accordance with Code of Practice guidance. **Deadline for the**

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HEE Midlands teams for releasing the information is 13 May. Information for Code of Practice for R2 and so on will be confirmed once the decision has been made regarding August 'rotation' dates.

Trainee Support Services - We are anticipating increased activity levels for trainee support services in the Midlands including Professional Support & Wellbeing and Supported Return to Training (SuppoRRT). PMDE Teams and Senior Managers continue to monitor the situation and resourcing levels. Currently there are no significant risks.

Allocation of Interim FY1 doctors - Some early graduating final year medical students have also contributed joining an interim foundation year 1 programme, and we are working to share some regional breakdown.

Volunteer medical students - This is being managed by the medical schools in close liaison with HEE. In EMs there are currently 34 students volunteering from Leicester Medical School, but not all are within our region. We are aware of Nottingham medical students volunteering as doctor assistants in Derby and we are waiting figures for Lincoln, Sherwood and Nottingham all of whom are accepting volunteers.

In the WMs there are 140 final year student volunteer assistantships from Warwick Medical School which continue to go well with excellent feedback. There are 270 further volunteers from earlier years. For Birmingham - 268 final year students have signed up for volunteering currently with 261 volunteers from lower years. For Keele, many of the volunteer students are based in other parts of the UK. As the final years graduate over the next few weeks across these three medical schools, we expect many will be taking up FY1 opportunities. For Aston University, which is a new course, some students are taking part in the National NHS Volunteer Scheme.

Academic and Out of Programme trainee returners - 82 trainees across the Midlands that were OOP or in academic training have contacted HEE to inform them that they have returned to clinical practice to assist with Covid-19 activity. Supported Return to Training (SuppoRRT) administrators have contacted all OOP trainees.

Internal redeployment - Trusts have been asked to inform HEE of any redeployments between Trusts and of internal redeployments. **Please can you ensure your organisations respond to this request.**

Pharmacy:

The information for pharmacy trainees is accessible through a dedicated portal on the HEE website [Link](#)

Students into Work (SIW):

2nd year student nursing & Midwifery deployment - In the region, 2nd year nursing students are not being deployed as anticipated. Placement providers in WMs are reporting a 'not needed just yet' message and are able to offer supernumerary placements to maintain student progression. Placement providers in EMs are reporting the inability to manage students on placements. Most of midwifery students have been deployed from the link University (Birmingham Women's and Children's) but some providers have been unable to deploy students due to lack of need or challenges with roles/contracts. There is an emerging concern that student expectation for deployment may become an issue. The situation is being reviewed by the SIW cell daily.

Non-NHS organisation student deployment - Deployment of students into non-NHS organisations has taken longer than anticipated as a result of challenges related to the need for an NHS lead employer (to address death in service and pension T&Cs). For Midlands, the SIW cell have developed processes and are currently liaising with PVI and Training Hubs to ensure the students on the portal are accessed by the end of this week.

AHP Redeployment - The portal is now live for AHP deployment, with uptake from Universities being slow and the perceived need by placement providers being low. The SIW cell are working with the Regional AHP lead to identify and support areas with student placements, with an AHP briefing set for 29th April with the system. There has been national input to paramedic student deployment and a process in place that is being monitored.

FURTHER INFORMATION

By following @NHS_HealthEdEng 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 obviously incredibly important. If there's any information you think is missing on [HEEs webpages](#), please let us know by submitting your question to the [HEE Q&A helpdesk](#).