

Health Education England

Training Recovery Update

19th August 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a profound effect on health and social care and will continue to have a significant impact on training and education for some time. But there are some positive outcomes with the emergence of new models of learning and teaching.

During the pandemic Digital innovation played a significant part in both service and healthcare education and training delivery. HEE delivered 5.3m sessions of online COVID-19 learning in the UK, also accessed by 115 countries globally, and we maintained training progression through virtual support. It is important that we embrace the advances we have made and continue to use those that worked effectively, both as part of our collective COVID-19 recovery efforts and in future reforms.

An important part of postgraduate training recovery is enhancing the access to simulation and technology-based resources which help address specific training gaps and support recovery plans. By accelerating digital education development, HEE's Technology Enhanced Learning (HEE TEL) team is moving forward Digital reform in medical training.

A portfolio of resources has been developed to help providers choose products to address training skills gaps. This contains details of over 40 suppliers who can offer specialised and innovative products to assist national specialty leads or local providers. The portfolio has been developed to enable colleagues to access resources, filtered by specialty, training needs, and type of technology, with guidance offered on specific deployment and adoption requirements useful for local providers. This portfolio of learning technology products is intended to complement or enhance delivery of training and facilitate flexible approaches to learning, both individually and in groups.

Medical specialty and simulation leads have supported this development by identifying which resources will help with the attainment of specific procedural or professional capabilities; support remote orientation to new clinical experience or support new ways of working such as remote consultations. This will enable faster adoption of new learning technologies across training programmes.

One unique aspect is the virtual XR Hubs initiative, which provides time-limited access to cutting edge Extended Reality (XR) equipment and software. This will enable NHS Trusts and education providers to explore how these devices could transform their delivery of healthcare education. This opportunity will be targeted to local need and expertise as well as exploring how new approaches could address training needs in different ways.

A 'TEL Readiness' audit tool will be available to assess local IT infrastructures to ensure these can support the technologies. A separate scoping survey of health and care providers is populating an 'expert user map' that will identify local sources of assistance for new users.

The Learning Hub [<https://learninghub.nhs.uk>] digital platform provides easy access to a wide range of education and training resources. Organisations can share resources on the Hub and over 1700 resources have been provided to date. It will also include e-learning for healthcare in the future.

To support to the successful integration of new learning technologies HEE is also developing faculty development resources. These will help educators and technicians develop the digital and technological capabilities to use the new learning technologies and will support the education community in moving to designing, developing and delivering more learning through virtual and hybrid teaching approaches. Available via the Learning Hub these will include access to virtual workshops, coaching and communities of practice.

By working together nationally, regionally and locally we can implement new approaches in simulation and technology enhanced learning to support training recovery. In continuing to build on the Digital advances which helped ensure the continuity of training and are supporting recovery, we can also look to the future and many more digital improvements to training and education.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheona MacLeod".

Professor Sheona MacLeod
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