

Benefits of National Networking Group Membership

What is a NPAG National Networking Group

An NPAG networking group is a structured forum for healthcare professionals to meet, discuss current issues and receive presentations on topics that they are interested in. Its prime purpose is to support managers in the *continuous improvement* of their own services.

What can membership offer me?

As national networking groups they enable members to share information and experience in an open and honest environment, receive presentations from topical speakers, undertake benchmarking exercises, debate policy and identify innovation and good working practice.

Crucially in today's financial climate, membership can help save your Trust money. One recent example was the presentation to the NHS Sustainability Leads Network by energy company EON on *demand side response*. Trusts can, simply by offering their surplus energy to the grid, generate substantial income and regularly test their back-up generators enhancing their resilience in an emergency.

Group membership also entitles the member to attend NPAG conferences at a discounted delegate rate.

NPAG is a member of the CPD Certification Service. As a group member, you will receive an annual CPD certificate at the end of each year to verify attendance at meetings.

One of the greatest benefits to members is access to the NPAG *Network*. This is a fantastic resource providing a managed question and answer service enabling members to unlock the information held by the entire network of NPAG members.

What is the time commitment?

The majority of groups meet four times a year. There is some work, such as benchmarking exercises, that needs to be completed between meetings.

Where do they meet?

Venues for groups are always chosen for accessibility and suitability - typically they will be in central London or the Midlands.

What happens between meetings?

The amount of interaction between meetings is driven by the group members. Often groups set up email groups to enable ongoing questions and sharing of information between meetings.

Are they value for money?

The average annual cost for a BVG meeting four times a year is £595 per member and any further members at a discounted rate of £295. In comparison a year's membership is less than the average cost of employing a management consultant for a day.

Please visit our website for details of all our current groups: www.npag.org.uk.