

# NPAG News

## February 2020

Edition 160

Welcome to the February edition of NPAG News.

With the January fog now lifting we have certainly noticed an increase in new customer enquiries. This, in particular, has been the case for our upcoming Theatres and Decontamination Conference taking place on the 5th March in Coventry. Delegate registrations have spiked and our exhibition is almost at capacity. The delegate place early bird rate closes on the 10th February so if you're thinking about attending, now is the time to secure your place.

February is always a busy but positive month here at NPAG. Many of our groups will shortly begin new meeting rounds (see pages 2, 4 and 5 for details of 3 of our groups currently inviting registrations) and we spend time as a team setting our goals for the new financial year. We are passionate about growing our groups and service portfolio ensuring we offer our members and clients exactly what they need. Keep your eyes peeled for updates about what we have planned in our spring editions of NPAG News. Additionally, if there is anything you would like to see us launch please do get in touch.

Turning to hospital car parking, from April thousands of NHS patients and visitors in England will be able to access free hospital car parking under a new approach set out by Health Secretary Matt Hancock. The government will also consider car parking capacity across the country, and how improved technology will reduce burdens for hospitals and take away stress for visitors.

From April, all 206 hospital trusts in England will be expected to provide free car parking to groups that may be frequent hospital visitors, or those disproportionately impacted by daily or hourly charges for parking.

All these proposals will have major practical implications for NPAG Member trusts, and we are very grateful for the opportunity to participate in discussions being led by Department of Health and Social Care. If this impacts you in your role please do get in touch to see how NPAG can support you through this time of change.

**The NPAG Team**

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*"I value being a member of NPAG Clinical Engineers group because as a newly appointed EBME Manager it has helped me with benchmarking KPI's and problem sharing. It has given me a link to other managers and Trust."*

EBME Manager  
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

## Join Today! Clinical Engineering North and South

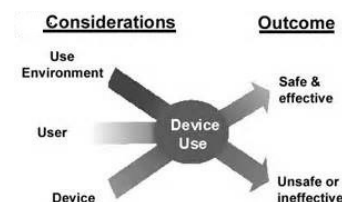
The NPAG Clinical Engineering North and South Best Value Groups are two expert groups, enabling NHS Clinical Engineers to meet and share new ideas, discuss common problems, measure service provider's performance, provide cost effective solutions, be creative and innovative in service design and network with others involved in this complex area. Both groups are aligned with common meeting agendas which include standard items such as identifying cost saving initiatives helping departments to save money – which can easily account for the membership fee. Substantive 'real time' data for Benchmarking is always being collated. In addition the members are always keen to invite key presentations (often including updates from Manufacturers & Suppliers) to meetings which always have educational content underpinning the CPD points scheme.

Membership consists of three meetings and attendance to the annual NPAG Clinical Engineering Conference, supported and driven by the members. The conference this year will take place on Tuesday 15th September 2020 at the DoubleTree Hilton, Coventry. The theme will be set following the March meetings. Manufacturer/Supplier presentations and topics are determined by members during the year. Key agenda items for 2020 will include:

- Benchmarking of Trust, budget, staffing, valuations
- Asset Real time updating of KPIs.
- Apprenticeship updating - MSC and RCT
- Updates from HSC Co-ordinator, NHS England
- Collation & review of device policies
- Device training
- Open forum of cost savings and other initiatives
- Areas of good practice/problems
- Peer review of policies & procedures
- Risk Assessments
- NPAG Network review of questions
- Review of information sharing & OneDrive data

### Current Challenges:

- ◆ Ensuring and developing systems that comply with the MHRA document release: "*Managing Medical Devices - Guidance for Healthcare and Social Services Organisations. April 2015*"
- ◆ UKAS BS70000 MPACE Clinical Engineering Accreditation Scheme
- ◆ Operational within a quality assured system with low risk and high governance compliance
- ◆ Achieving best value for money - maximising resources



### Why join? - A South Group Member Says:

**'As a member of NPAG Clinical Engineering South BVG for the last 5 years I have appreciated the regular opportunity to network with others in the same line of work. The quarterly meetings in London have focused on an educational theme and there is always something new to learn from the visiting manufacturers or the other members. Each year at the conference there has been the chance to meet the North Group and a wide variety of medical device suppliers and support companies at the comprehensive exhibition. However the most useful aspect of membership has been the shared benchmarking data. I have been able to use this to support business cases for improving our local service and as a calibration source for our local KPI's.'**

### FREE GMDN Membership Included!

The Southern Group begins the 2020 round on the **3rd March 2020** at the Imperial Hotel, London

The Northern Group meets on the **12th March 2020** at the West Premier Inn, Wigan

Please contact [Marie Cherry](#) for further details and to secure your place.

## 2020 Theatres and Decontamination Conference

### *'Efficiency and safe practice in the workplace'*

With only one month to go it's full steam ahead with the preparations for the 2020 NPAG Theatres and Decontamination Conference.

The conference agenda has once again been developed and driven by our Theatres and Decontamination group Members. Attended by Theatres and Decontamination Managers from a wide range of NHS trusts across the UK are actively involved in the conference planning process, highlighting current themes and issues to be raised.

The conference is open to both NPAG and non-NPAG members making the 2020 event an ideal platform to network with a wide range of peers from across the NHS.

**Book your place before the 10th February 2020 and qualify for the discounted early bird delegate rate.**

For further information please contact: [Marie Cherry](#)

### Delegate Feedback 2019

**"First time attending, will be returning - very useful day with a lot of information to take back to the Trust."** Delegate, Theatre Manager, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

**"I thought it was a superbly organised event. I really enjoyed the day and gained a greater awareness of collaborative working within theatres and decontamination. I have made some excellent contacts."** Speaker, Nottingham University NHS Trust

**"Having attended this conference on a number of occasions I find it very informative and amiable. I can cascade invaluable information back to my area of practice theatres."** Delegate, Theatre Sister, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB



An exhibition will run alongside the conference with plenty of networking time scheduled throughout the day. There will also be a prize draw offering delegates the chance to win a variety of exciting prizes! Delegates will only be entered if they are able to demonstrate they have visited the exhibition stands (signed entry form required).

Sponsorship packages are almost sold out but we do have limited exhibition stand availability.

Contact Victoria ASAP to secure one of our remaining packages: [Victoria Combes](#)

### Meet our Business Partners:



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## Now Renewing: Nursing & Temporary Staffing 2020

### Helping to Achieve a Cost Effective and Efficient Nursing and Temporary Staffing Service

With pressure continuing to grow on Trusts across the country, NPAG's long-standing national Nursing and Temporary Staffing Best Value Group becomes ever more valuable. Membership currently consists of acute, community, mental health and specialist trusts from across the country.

### What does NPAG Membership include?

- ◆ Four dedicated, supported meetings per annum
- ◆ Year-round networking and peer support facilitated by NPAG
- ◆ Direct links to many key organisations including NHS Employers, NHS Improvement, Department of Health, Shakespeare Martineau solicitors, HMRC and NHS Counter Fraud Authority
- ◆ A 'safe environment' in which to share good practice, discuss key challenges and frustrations, share policies and key documentation, etc.
- ◆ Member driven agendas and meeting content
- ◆ Advice, input and support from expert speakers

### Themes for 2020 will include:

- The development of relationships with other national agencies including: NHS England + Improvement, NHS Employers, NHS Counter Fraud Authority and Department of Health and Social Care
- To act as a sounding board for these organisations – supporting organisations such as the DHSC Temporary Staffing Strategy Team
- Allowing members to openly discuss any item of concern via the regular 'Hot Topics' slot
- Continuing to work with commercial organisations that can bring education and innovation to the meetings, particularly around rostering, resource management and employment law – including Shakespeare Martineau

### Specific topic areas will include:

- |                         |                           |                          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Bank Agreements       | • IR35                    | • Employment Law         |
| • Agency Negotiations   | • Job Descriptions        | • Electronic Rostering   |
| • Resource Benchmarking | • Bank v Agency Staff     | • Training               |
| • Competencies          | • Recruitment & Retention | • Appraisals & Induction |

*"I have been a member of NPAG Nursing & Temporary staffing Group for 10 years now, I have found this forum valuable in sharing good practice & gaining new ideas and have formed some close working relationships. The group invites some excellent guest speakers who are keen to share their knowledge & listen to our challenges. Anyone working in temporary staffing would benefit from the great work this group does collaboratively."*

*e-Rostering & Temporary Staffing Manager Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital*

The Group have agreed to run four meetings again across 2020 with the first taking place in **Birmingham** on **5 March 2020** followed by 3 further meetings in the same location.

**Interested?** Please contact [Marie Cherry](#) for further details and to secure your place.

## Try Before You Buy! 2020 Estates Best Value Group

The NPAG Estates Best Value Group is a specialist group organised by the National Performance Advisory Group. Each year consists of 4 meetings (March, June, September and December) that are held at a central London venue. **The first meeting of the 2020 round of meetings is to take place in central London on 5th March 2020.** The group comprise of Senior Operational Estates professionals from Acute, Community, Mental Health Trusts and NHS Property Services. The agenda for each meeting is chosen by members and is supplemented by a presentation covering a topical subject/s.

The NHS is in a period of constant change and continues to be a challenging environment to work in with expectations on staff and services ever increasing. Meeting cost improvement programme's, improved efficiencies and demonstrating continuous improvement against a background of Increasing demand on services and rising patient expectations not to mention regulatory and mandatory requirements that need to be met can at times seem overwhelming for Estate professionals. This is where a specialist network like NPAG benefits both the individual and the Trust through increased collaboration and sharing knowledge between likeminded professionals in a confidential, open and honest environment.

There has never been a more important time to take the opportunity to work more collaboratively with Estates colleagues across the NHS sector with the aim of sharing information, benchmarking elements of service to identify savings opportunities and identifying and adopting best practice. It is equally important to learn from others experiences.

*“As a member of the Estates BVG for nearly ten years I can honestly say that the benefits and insight gained as being a part of the membership of the group has not only assisted in my personal development as an Estates professional but also at times assisted in providing a therapeutic assurance in regard to best practice in the delivery of an Estates service to my Trust.”*

**Kevin Ward, Head of Estates, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, Estates BVG Member 2019**

The agenda for the 2020 round of meetings will include:

- Continuing to strengthen links with other healthcare professional bodies
- Demonstrating statutory compliance and managing risk
- Workforce planning and business continuity. Apprentices / succession planning /staff retention and development
- Model hospital, improving Eric data and Premises Assurance Model
- Health and wellbeing of staff
- Identify best practice service delivery models for providing Estates services

### Why join? Our Chair says:

“The meetings give members the opportunity to learn from each other in a confidential environment whilst expanding their professional network. The synergy of the group will allow you to improve your decision making, expand knowledge, improve personal confidence and give you access to the knowledge and many years' experience of fellow professionals. The opportunity to network outside the meetings is invaluable. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to members old and new as we commence this year's round of meetings.”

**Interested?** Please contact [Marie Cherry](#) for further details and to secure your place.



## Meet our Sponsors!

Meet one of our sponsors of the 2020 Theatres and Decontamination Conference



## Advertising in NPAG News

**Would you like to see your company feature in NPAG News?**

**Want to come along and talk to our members about a new product or initiative?**

**Sponsorship packages are now available with prices starting from as little as £200!**

NPAG's current sponsorship packages include:

- ◆ BVG Meeting Sponsorship
- ◆ Event & Workshop Sponsorship
- ◆ NPAG News Sponsorship
- ◆ Feature an advert in the NPAG monthly newsletter

**If you would like to speak to us about any of these options or to create a bespoke package we would love to hear from you! Get [in touch](#) today!**

## Working in partnership with NPAG

NPAG has established many important partnerships over the years. We work closely with a number of excellent training providers, consultants and key venues.

**NPAG is currently working to recruit an associate with experience of, or an interest in, Decontamination. The role commencing in April 2020 will involve facilitating our well established Decontamination Best Value Group. The group meets 4 times per annum in a central London location. For more information about the role and how to apply please contact Victoria Combes: [victoria.combes@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:victoria.combes@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk) or call on 01245 544600.**

## What's hot for the coming months

### National Networking Group Meetings

#### February

- Arts, Heritage & Design
- Facilities South
- Resilience
- Waste Management

#### March

- National District Nurses
- NHS Sustainability Leads Network
- IT & Connectivity Network
- Clinical Engineering North & South
- Operating Theatres
- Decontamination
- Estates
- Nursing & Temporary Staffing

#### April

- Health Visiting and School Health Services Network
- NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Travel Network
- Facilities North

### Workshops & Events

#### Human Factor Onsite Training

**Introduction to Resilience in the NHS, Onsite Training Workshop**

**Putting the Patient First Onsite Training Workshops**

**Equality & Diversity Onsite Training Workshops**

For details of the above please contact [Marie Cherry](#)

**Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses Training Workshops: Feb - April 2020**

For details of the above please contact [Gemma Aitchison](#)

### Book your place now.....

**Theatres and Decontamination Conference: 5th March 2020, Midlands (Exhibition now open)**

For Delegate Bookings please contact: [Marie Cherry](#)

For sponsorship details please contact [Victoria Combes](#)

#### Clinical Engineering

**Conference: 15th September 2020, Midlands**

Register your interest with: [Marie Cherry](#)

## Contact Us

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