

# NPAG Bulletin

15 May 2020

Edition 1

## Welcome to the first NPAG Bulletin.

With NPAG groups still unable to meet, we are doing everything we can to support you and keep in touch.

We have decided to supplement our monthly NPAG News editions with a mid-month Bulletin. It is expected the Bulletin will include updates on how NPAG is continuing to respond to the current crisis and new plans for supporting our members.

Priorities continue to change. In the last newsletter we reported that NPAG had been undertaking some duties in support of our host Trust, the East of England Ambulance Service - the recruitment of volunteers. This work has now come to an end and we are delighted to be able to focus fully on NPAG again.

The big news for this Bulletin is the introduction of **mini virtual meetings** for Best Value Groups, focusing on members' exchange and critical updates. These mini virtual meetings will be in addition to the standard number of meetings per round, which will resume as soon as possible, so there should be no concern over members losing out on face-to-face exchanges. Following trials of Microsoft Teams at NPAG, your Facilitator will be in touch to organise the first event very soon. Looking a little further ahead, we are actively pursuing the development of future alternatives to face-to-face meetings. Not to replace traditional meetings completely, but to run alongside them if there is interest from members.

We are also continuing to promote new meeting rounds and there are details of the Decontamination BVG and Arts, Heritage and Design Network on pages 3 and 4.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon. In the meantime, stay safe and do keep using the NPAG Network.

**The NPAG Team**

## Inside This Edition

NPAG Network	2
New meeting rounds:	
Decontamination	3
Arts, Heritage and Design	4
Working in partnership with NPAG	5
What's hot for the coming months	5

### **What a Member of the new NPAG Arts, Heritage & Design Network is doing:**

*The arts team at Imperial Health Charity have taken engagement activities online with newsletters and zoom workshops. Some of us are helping the hospitals volunteer and donations service, either on site or from home (interviewing new volunteers). We are also distributing arts activity packs, puzzle and colouring books to patients.*

## Helping our Members - NPAG Network

The NPAG Network is available to all NPAG Best Value Group and Network members. The service was developed by NPAG, recognizing the need for a forum for healthcare providers to ask questions, request assistance and information, share documents, and get professional and practical advice from their peers throughout the UK, saving time and money in not re-inventing the wheel.

Members of the NPAG's Best Value and National Networking Groups form the nucleus of the *Network* – providing over 600 contacts throughout the UK.

Since April last year, the NPAG Network has sent out 200 requests for information and we've received over 600 responses, this is incredible sharing by our members!

A snapshot of the recent requests for information include:

*"Please could you ask NPAG members if they have been involved in arts projects to support bereaved families such as paper flowers or knitted hearts to send family members of those who've passed away."*

*"We are considering creating origami lilies to send bereaved families with condolence cards from our Trust and are keen to see how other such initiatives have been received elsewhere before doing so."*

Arts, Heritage & Design Network Member

*"Could you kindly communicate this to the group?"*

*Theatre noticed some cotton-like fluff when they opened a sterile screw set. It would appear that the fluff was in the screw holder.*

*"Anyone ever experienced this?"*

Decontamination BVG Member

*"Could you please tell me your staffing ratio for when operating on suspected/proven Covid patients in theatres? Have you increased theatre numbers above 4 and are you allocating any outside runners? if so, what grade?"*

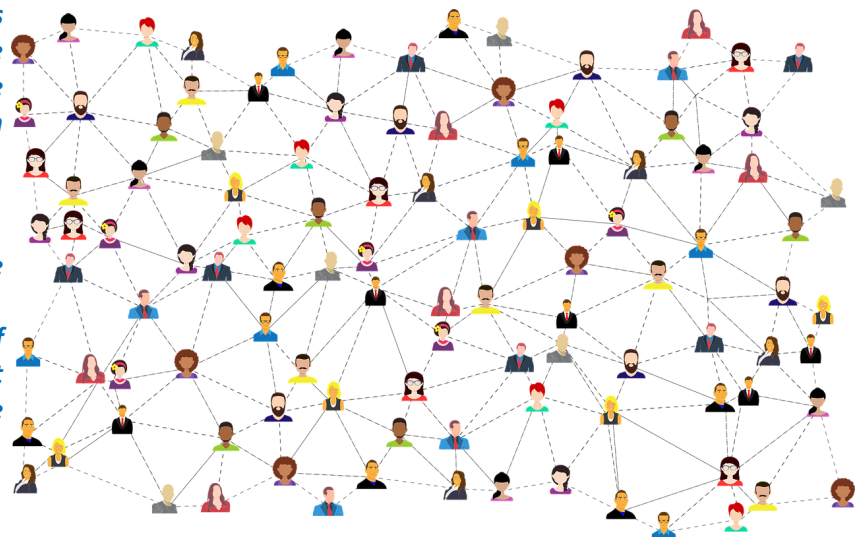
*If your theatre sessions have been extended, I.E 08:00 - 20:45, how are you staffing longer days due to staff wearing PPE?"*

*"Any other relevant information would be gratefully received."*

Operating Theatres Member

Please note you need to be an NPAG member to submit an enquiry. Please send your NPAG Network requests to:

E: [npagnetwork@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:npagnetwork@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)



## Decontamination Best Value Group 2020-21

Autumn / Winter 2020, London

The NPAG Decontamination BVG is a unique group enabling NHS Decontamination, Sterile Services and Endoscopy reprocessing managers / senior staff to meet and share new ideas, discuss common problems and support one another in the practical implementation of day-to-day processing of reusable medical devices.

For over a decade, NPAG's members representing Sterile and Decontamination Services have strived to improve the delivery of decontamination sciences. The individuals within this industry continue to demonstrate real enthusiasm for seeking out improvements and developments. Each meeting contains at least one presentation from an external source (based on member requests) to **increase member knowledge**.

**Collaboration is not confined to meetings;** members openly communicate with each other and actively use the NPAGNetwork - a managed question and answer forum. Meetings are used to share knowledge on a vast array of matters, topics and experiences including staffing, manufacturers, best practice, financial constraints, audits and projects. Learning from each other has been essential in reducing issues when managing the daily business of Decontamination, making it easier, more structured and safer for the end user and patients.

*"Membership of the Decontamination BVG during 2019-20 has been an informative and valuable opportunity to engage with likeminded industry professionals, to share best practise and discuss common challenges, ultimately allowing us to collectively improve our quality of service."* 2019-20 Decontamination BVG Member

Members receive three facilitated meetings per year plus attendance to the NPAG Theatres & Decontamination Conference which will be held in 2021. Meeting agendas are driven by member needs and requirements and, as a start, will include:

**Announced & Unannounced Audits, Cost Savings, Benchmarking Data, Open Forum, Daily Production & Staffing Concerns, MHRA Reports, Difficult to Clean Devices and Manufacturers Instructions**

### Why join? Our Chair says:

*"As chair of the NPAG Decontamination group I find every meeting brings opportunities and enlightenment a plenty! We are so fortunate to have the excellent central structure from NPAG and the services of a dedicated Facilitator for the Decontamination group.*

*With a wider member base, now including many from decontamination commercial partners, instrument and detergent suppliers there is still the open forum to discuss all topics now often from different angles. Having respect for commercial interests the debates progress along very open lines and everyone is made to be part of a single group.*

*Please come along and embrace the knowledge, experience, friendship, kinship and desire to ensure hospital decontamination is managed effectively and efficiently, from all of the members."*

Fraser Bishop, Facilities Clinical Services Manager and Trust Decontamination Lead, North Devon District Hospital

**Interested?** Please contact Victoria for further details or to secure your place:

E: [victoria.combes@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:victoria.combes@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)



## Arts, Heritage & Design in Healthcare

Autumn / Winter 2020, Oxford

Last year NPAG set up a new national Networking Group for NHS managers and professional leads involved in the leadership and delivery of Arts, Heritage and Design services across hospitals. Our purpose is to share best practice, to find solutions and offer support to those working within this field of healthcare. We are also working to help raise the profile of the profession and, where appropriate, to improve and standardise approaches to working.

An NPAG national Network is a structured forum for healthcare professionals to meet, discuss current issues and receive presentations on topics they are interested in. Its prime purpose is to support managers in the continuous improvement of their service. NPAG have a long track record of supporting healthcare managers across the country, with over twenty such networks in operation. One year on and the Arts Network is well-established after three very successful meetings.

*“Arts and heritage programmes in our hospitals play a key role in fulfilling recommendations set out by the 2017 inquiry report from the All Party Parliamentary Group for arts in health. I would urge hospital trusts to join this new national network, to assist in improving our hospital environments through high quality arts, heritage and design initiatives.”*

**Rt. Hon. Lord Howarth of Newport, Co-Chair, All-Parliamentary Group on Arts Health & Wellbeing.**

### What can the Network offer me?

We share information and experience in an open and honest environment, receive presentations from topical speakers, undertake benchmarking exercises, debate policy and identify innovations and good working practice. NPAG is a member of the CPD Certification Service and as a Network member, you will receive an annual CPD certificate to verify attendance at meetings. Between meetings you can access a managed question and answer service and a resource library, enabling members to unlock expertise across the field.

### Time to think, discuss and plan

At the end of the last series of meetings we debated the concept of National Guidelines (similar to those of the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance). Members were asked to consider the following areas:

*Collection Management / Evaluation & Research / Art in Design & Build / Arts Participation / Governance*

We will be developing these ideas during the coming round of three meetings over the next year, as well as finding time to debate hot topics, successes and challenges.

### How do I sign up?

Because of Covid-19 the date / location of the first meeting of the 2020-21 round has been postponed. But you may register for group membership now and mini virtual meetings are being coordinated for group members whilst we await the new meeting date confirmation. The price of one year's membership is £410 for three meetings.

The cost of the annual membership is £410. You will not be invoiced until the first meeting date is set.

**Interested?** Please contact Victoria for further details or to secure your place:

E: [victoria.combes@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:victoria.combes@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)



## 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 either one or two associates with experience of, or an interest in, Clinical Engineering. The role commencing now will involve facilitating our well established Clinical Engineering North and South Best Value Groups. Both groups meet three times per annum and join together in September for their Annual Conference. The southern group meets in central London and the northern group meets in Wigan.**

For more information about the role and how to apply please contact:

**Marie Cherry:** [marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk).

## What's hot for the coming months

### National Networking Group Meetings

All BVG and Networking meetings have been postponed until the middle of June. Mini Virtual Meetings are being planned for groups in the coming weeks.

Dates below may be subject to change:

#### August

- Waste Management

#### September

- Security Network
- Clinical Engineering North
- Clinical Engineering South
- Facilities South
- Estates
- NHS Sustainability Leads Network
- Resilience Development Network
- Operating Theatres

#### October

- Nursing & Temporary Staffing

### 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](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

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

**Waste and Sustainability Conference: 26th November 2020, Midlands**

Register your interest with:

[Marie Cherry](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

**Theatres and Decontamination Conference: 25th March 2021, Midlands**

Register your interest with:

[Marie Cherry](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

**Clinical Engineering Conference: 14th September 2021, Midlands—New Date**

Register your interest with:

[Marie Cherry](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

## Contact Us

Email: [npagnews@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:npagnews@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

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