

NPAG News

June 2020

Edition 164

Welcome to the June edition of NPAG News.

As we take our first step into the summer months, for many of us our working lives are still a long way from normal. As we pass the peak of the pandemic in the UK, we will all be looking into how we develop recovery plans for our organisations.

To support you in this and any other urgent activities, NPAG are implementing mini virtual meetings for all groups commencing during the first week of June - see page 2.

Regrettably, it seems that our physical networking meetings are still some way off, but NPAG will continue to support you. Apart from introducing the virtual meetings, we continue to bring you a daily briefing courtesy of one of the key contributors to our NPAG Resilience Network and the mid-month NPAG Bulletin to supplement NPAG News

We will also be continuing to invite you to register for new meeting rounds and in this Edition we are promoting the **Telecoms and Facilities North** groups - see pages 3 and 4. Our newly re-branded **Car Parking and Sustainable Travel Network** is also renewing - please contact [Victoria](#) for more information.

Please do come to us with anything you would like to contribute. The NPAG Network remains very active and we are able to share your questions and concerns with others across the country and bring you quick responses.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon. In the meantime, stay safe.

The NPAG Team

Inside This Edition

Introducing Mini Virtual Meetings	2
Telecoms BVG 2020 / 21	3
Facilities North BVG 2020 / 21	4
Helping our Members - NPAG Network	5
Working in partnership with NPAG	6
What's hot for the coming months	6

A current discussion on the NPAG Network prompted by a Facilities South Member

"If staff restaurants continue to stay open, how is social distancing being managed in the servery and within the seating area?"

What measures have been put in place to protect the customers and the catering staff?"

Introducing Mini Virtual Meetings

The focus across the country is still on responding to the coronavirus crisis and perhaps just beginning to think about recovery.

Many of our BVG Members are supporting their Trusts in a variety of different ways. We shared a number of inspiring member stories in the last Edition.

While all of this unfamiliar activity is being carried on, it is increasingly important for our members not to feel that they are isolated. Recognising this and still being unable to meet physically with you in our normal way, we have now begun to roll out the mini virtual meetings that we first publicised in recent NPAG News editions.

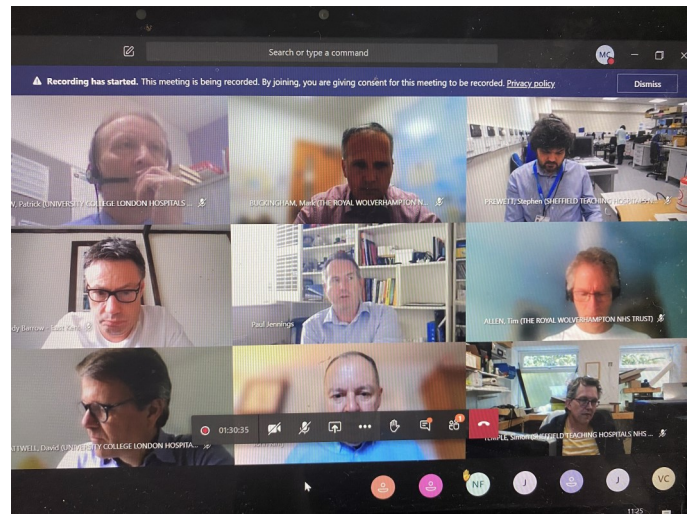
The very first such meeting took place this week on 3 June following successful trials internally among NPAG Staff and Associates.

The NPAG IT & Connectivity Network had not met since the end of last year and so was selected for the first virtual meeting. We had a fantastic turnout with new members present and only one apology for absence.

We are all still getting used to the new technologies and, as expected, we learned several useful lessons from this first event of its type.

Not every member was able to join us by video link but they were able to dial into the meeting.

On a couple of occasions it was not possible to hear a question clearly enough and this was dealt with by inviting the member to email the question. This was then read out to the group for discussion / feedback. It was a system that worked well and that we will be employing during future meetings.



Finding new ways of keeping in touch

Meeting in this way can feel very intense and we were pleased that we had decided to limit the meeting to 90 minutes, which in the event felt 'just right'.

The meetings will need good support from NPAG. For the moment all virtual meetings will be supported by a Facilitator and BVG Coordinator.

Everyone that attended agreed that these mini virtual meetings, while never intended to replace the face-to-face experience, provide a very valuable way of keeping in touch. They can be used flexibly, as and when the need arises and NPAG are now looking at developing the programme and rolling it out to all of our national groups.

If you would like to join one of our groups and have the opportunity to take part in one of our upcoming mini virtual meeting please contact a member of the NPAG team who will be happy to help.

marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

victoria.combes@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Telecoms Best Value Group 2020-2021

Next Meeting Autumn / Winter 2020

The Telecoms BVG is a unique group of NHS Telecoms professionals. Membership of the group facilitates collaboration with Telecoms industry experts and service providers, allowing members to evaluate new technology, share best practice and influence service providers to secure best value solutions. One of the most valued benefits of membership is the peer-to-peer support between members, which often proves invaluable in resolving complex technical issues across the NHS.

The group holds quarterly meetings, generally at a Central London location, where two service providers are invited by the members at each meeting to give presentations on topical issues or products relating to current challenges relevant to members business needs.

The agenda of the meetings is driven by members needs and requirements with key topics for 2020-21 including:

- Evaluating innovative, cost effective solutions to replace current bleep and pager technology
- The new 'Business as Usual': What is it and how do we continue to provide it?
- Collaborative working and its integration with the traditional telephony estate
- How to secure best value in an ever changing market place

“The Telecoms Best Value Group provides an excellent opportunity to engage with NHS colleagues and discuss common telecommunications issues affecting the NHS. Membership has allowed me to deploy services and products introduced through the group which have provided best value solutions for my Trust. I consider membership of this group essential and worthwhile to any NHS telecoms professional.” Telecoms Manager, St Georges University Hospitals NHS FT

Why join? Our Chair says:

“Being a member of this unique group will enhance your knowledge base and simplify your life! The Covid 19 outbreak has given the NHS many challenges. Communications has been subject to an extraordinary change with unprecedented adoption of new technologies to enable a predominately office-based workforce to become mobile and work, with full access to required resources, from the most appropriate location. These changes will define the way our teams will be expected to provide service to our colleagues, and what better way to assist in this change than becoming a member of the NPAG Telecoms Best Value Group?” Richard Hooper, UHBW FT, Joint Chair

Because of Covid-19 the date of the first meeting of the 2020-21 round remains unconfirmed but you may register for group membership now.

Interested? Please contact [Victoria Combes](#) for further details

Facilities North Best Value Group 2020-2021

Next Meeting Autumn / Winter 2020

The NPAG Facilities North Best Value Group is one of the longest-running of NPAG's national groups.

We hold two regular meetings per year at The Source, Meadowhall, Sheffield. Twice a year - June and November - we come together with members of the Facilities South group, meeting in central Birmingham. This gives members the opportunity to extend their network on a national basis, share information and discuss the common issues whilst sharing best practice. All Agendas are agreed by the members. The group comprises of Operational Facilities professionals from a variety of NHS Trusts including Acute, Mental Health and Community Trusts.

The NHS continues to be a challenging environment to work in with managers striving to reduce costs whilst improving efficiencies and operating in a constantly changing environment. Increasing demand placed on managers and services coupled with rising patient expectations not to mention regulatory and mandatory requirements that need to be met is very challenging for Facilities professionals. This group offers a supportive network of likeminded professionals who openly share their knowledge and experiences of operating in a busy facilities environment.

There has never been a more important time to take the opportunity to work more collaboratively with Facilities colleagues across the NHS sector with the aim of sharing information, benchmarking elements of service and identifying efficiencies and savings and adopting best practice. Learning the lessons is an important part of the process.

The topics for this year's round of meetings include but are not limited to:

- Implementation of the national cleaning and food standards
- Continued development of the model hospital and improving ERIC data
- Outcome of the PLACE review and plans going forward
- Introduction of The Premises Assurance Model

"The Facilities North Best Value Group provides an excellent opportunity for NHS managers to share ideas, innovation and receive presentations from experts or suppliers whilst developing networks of like-minded people who provide support and friendship." Facilities North BVG Member, Site Director of Estates & Facilities, Manchester University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Why join? Our Chair says:

"This years round of meetings includes two joint meetings with colleagues of the Facilities South group. At the joint meetings we are able to attract excellent speakers who are very knowledgeable and influential in their chosen field. The remaining two meetings are to be held in Sheffield. The meetings allow members to discuss issues and share information in a confidential and supportive environment with likeminded individuals. Each meeting includes a technical presentation on a subject chosen by members which adds further value. Do not delay—sign up now!"

Interested? The group has virtual group meeting scheduled to take place on the 25th June 2020. Please contact [Marie Cherry](#) for further details.

Helping our Members - NPAG Network

During this period, the NPAG Network continues its support 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 reveals the breadth of interest:

“We were wondering if anybody had had a Virtual Audits or Recertification to ISO13485. If so how did it go and what were the results.”

Decontamination Network Member

“Hope you are all well in these challenging times. We are looking collectively in the South West at our recovery of services. We are struggling with car parking as we lifted barriers and it became a free for all and are looking at reversing of the process. I am aware we are all not in the same position regarding Covid 19 numbers but can I ask if any Trusts are still charging patients and visitors? or if you have any plans to reintroduce and if so when?”

Car Parking & Sustainable Transport Network Member

“If staff restaurants continue to stay open, how is social distancing being managed in the servery and within the seating area?

What measures have been put in place to protect the customers and the catering staff?”

Facilities South Member

“For those happy to share, I'm looking to learn what you pay/have paid artists for running weekly sessions on wards. Any further information about associated costs of artist workshops would be much appreciated too.”

Arts, Heritage & Design Network 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

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 as soon as possible, will involve facilitating our well established Clinical Engineering North and South Best Value Groups. Both groups meet three times per annum individually and join together in September for their Annual Conference. The Southern group meets in central London and the Northern group in Wigan.

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

Marie Cherry: 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

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 and Diversity Onsite Training Workshops

Assertiveness & Self Management 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

Join Us 

Follow Us 

East of England Ambulance Service
NHS Trust
Chelmsford Office, Hospital Approach
Broomfield, Essex
CM1 7WS