

NPAG News

October 2020

Edition 168

Welcome to the October edition of NPAG News.

It is now over six months since we were last able to meet face-to-face. Our virtual meetings are becoming well-established, with our national groups now adapting their ways of working to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

In the last week we have written to all of our Best Value Group Members outlining plans for the coming months. A summary of the message is repeated below:

Following the recent Covid-19 update by the Prime Minister, NPAG will continue to deliver all BVG and Networking meetings via Microsoft Teams for the foreseeable future. Tighter restrictions are now in place for perhaps six months, taking us to March 2021. NPAG will continue to monitor government guidelines and keep you updated in your meetings.

All NPAG groups have now received a complimentary Teams session and many groups are now experiencing full NPAG meetings on Teams. Key speakers, guest advisors and new members are continuing to join the meetings as we manoeuvre our way through Covid-19.

As ever, we will continue to support you in other ways via the website and NPAG Network, which continues to be very busy. A summary of recent requests is contained in this Edition on page 3.

We will also continue to review and analyse your feedback about the NPAG experience and to refine our services moving forward and as technology allows. Please also see our current offers set out on page 2.

Thank you all for your continued support and please stay safe.

The NPAG Team

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A recent NPAG Network Request, reflecting the current interest in Car Parking at Hospitals and for which NPAG have carried out recent a Member Survey for NHSI:

“Please can you ask the group if they are happy to share their car parking policy, we are currently reviewing our car parking policy and was hoping to have sight of others.”

NPAG Offers 2020

At NPAG we are keen to make our unique range of support services available to as many organisations as possible. We offer a number of incentives to encourage people to sample our services and we thought it might be helpful this month if we did a little round-up of what is on the table.

Try before you buy



We recognise that with such a wide-ranging NPAG portfolio and with each group operating slightly differently, committing to a full year's membership can sometimes be a difficult decision. That's why we offer all potential new members our **try before you buy** option. Simply attend a meeting of a group's new round, see what it's all about and if you decide it's not for you walk away commitment free.*

Refer a friend

A Member referral resulting in another Trust / Organisation registering for full membership of the same group will result in the referring Member qualifying for a one meeting discount.

The discount applies to the full membership fee only (not applicable to the 2nd member rate). The discount will be applied once, at the start of the current meeting round. Mid round membership referral discounts will be processed at the start of the following year's membership round.

Second Membership Discount

Many of our groups have strong links with one or

more others—Waste Management, Facilities and Sustainability; Operating Theatres and Decontamination are a few examples.

A number of our Members have elected to join more than one of our groups. We therefore offer a financial incentive to join additional NPAG groups—a 20% discount will be applied when an existing NPAG member joins an additional Group.**

Associate Membership

Associate Membership provides access to the NPAG Network and other NPAG benefits without membership of a specific Best Value Group.

What do you get?

- ◆ Regular information about your chosen BVG(s)
- ◆ NPAG Network Membership
- ◆ Access to NPAG Library of documents
- ◆ Participation in NPAG benchmarking surveys

How much does it cost?

From as little as £250 per annum.

N.B. Offers are updated regularly and for up-to-date information please contact Marie Cherry:

E: marie.cherry@npag.eastab.nhs.uk

"I believe membership of NPAG helps me to be ahead of the changing world of healthcare, it's great to learn from others innovations and to try and replicate it in my own theatres, this can be anything from new roles, audits/training opportunities and changes to clinical practice. It's also helpful to hear how other theatres have responded to become safer from CQC feedback. On a financial aspect the savings offer an insight as where an organisation can look to find CIP and the savings far out way the cost of attendance."

Operating Theatres BVG Member Feedback

*Try before you buy option is available to new members only. New members must inform NPAG in writing that they wish to 'try before they buy' prior to first meeting attendance. If the new member continues membership beyond the first meeting then the full group membership fee applies.

**This does not apply to the £295 second member rate.

Helping our Members - NPAG Network

The NPAG Network remains very busy, continuing to offer invaluable support to all NPAG Best Value Group and Network members.

The service was developed by NPAG, recognising 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. Evidence shows that they are all keen to share their experiences.

This is a small sample of recent requests from across the groups, which reveals the broad spread of interest:

“Has anyone experienced issues with Page One?

I ask because a few users at St George's are not getting messages out of hours?”

Telecoms BVG Member

“We will shortly be recruiting to the team and I would be most grateful if members could please share JD's for Band 3 and Band 4 roles in teams such as Arts, Design, Estates that encompass a blend of administrative and practical responsibilities.”

Arts, Heritage and Design Member

“I have a very out-of-date hospital cleaning policy and I was wondering if any trusts have reviewed and updated theirs in the last couple of years and if so, would they be willing to share?”

Facilities South Member

“Could you ask the network which syringe driver is used in the community setting. Is it the T34? Has their Trust moved over to a different device and if so which one?

Can the network advise me of any issues they have with their current syringe driver provision, if so what did they do to rectify this.”

National District Nursing Network Member

“Can any members advise on their methodology for disinfecting manually washed items?”

Decontamination BVG Member

“I am requesting information from other NPAG members if anyone has done any work on changing from plastic to cardboard containers for clinical/pharmaceutical waste etc. “

Facilities South BVG Member

If you don't currently use the service, please do so. You will not be disappointed! Please send your NPAG Network requests to: E: npagnetwork@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

(Please note: You need to be an NPAG member to submit an enquiry)

Relaunch! NHS Transport & Logistics BPG 2020-21

The NHS Transport & Logistics Best Practice Group combines two main essentials: decades of in-house experience and quality presenters from within and outside the NHS. That way we build on proven good practice whilst having an eye to new systems and developments!

NPAG's focus is to innovate and support continuous improvement in the face of ever-increasing pressure to save money and increase efficiency. Members proactively network discussing and sharing documents on the delivery of fleet management, logistics, parking and associated services. Meetings will take place via Microsoft Teams, allowing real-time meetings to take place with out the overhead of costly travel expenses and reducing our carbon footprint at the same time.

The meeting agendas are driven by the members. They include established standing items which are addressed through knowledge and experience from the members and carefully selected guest speakers. Items include:

Agenda for Change updates; Fleet: Grey, Green & Courier; Pool Car Management; Trust Policies and Procedures: impact on Transport, Waste & ADR; Medical Records; CCGs & related matters; Driver Handbooks; Management of Taxi costs; Vehicle procurement & management. The members will be addressing the operational challenges faced during Covid-19, changes to work practices, staffing levels, and the recovery and changes implemented as a result of Covid-19.

"The NPAG Transport and Logistics Group is attended by professionals managing transport and logistics demands in NHS Trust's throughout the country yet ironically facing the same challenges and delivering solutions. The knowledge shared, the ability to share policy, process and avoid having to 'reinvent the wheel' is invaluable not only in precious time but in increasing knowledge and being able to support your work by quoting examples of success and lessons learnt from other Trusts." Former Member, The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT

Members come from a variety of Trust from across England and Wales. The diverse membership provides invaluable insight into how 'things' are done differently in the devolved nations and it would be good to have members join from the other devolved nations Scotland and Northern Ireland to further widen the knowledge base.

Guest speakers are invited from relevant industry companies including The Mileage Company and Lightfoot to present on Duty of Care for Grey Fleet Use / mileage capture and Driver Performance / telematics systems respectively. Such collaborations hold great potential for all involved sharing innovations across the whole spectrum of NHS Transport and Logistics. The Group will continue to apply itself to keeping abreast of rapidly-emerging vehicle, infrastructure and software technologies and their potential for enhancing capabilities within the NHS.

Why join? Our Facilitator says:

"The NHS Transport & Logistics BPG has been running for many years with great success. I have been proud to facilitate this group, the knowledge the members have and are willing to share is phenomenal and I can only see the group going from strength to strength for many years to come. Come along and see for yourself what a great resource this group can be to you and your organisation."

Interested? The Group will commence on Wednesday 9th December, followed by a further 3 more meetings all taking place on Microsoft Teams.

Please contact Marie Cherry for further details e: marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

[Try Before You Buy](#) places are available. Please contact Marie for details.

Join Now! Facilities North Best Value Group 2020-21

The NPAG Facilities North Best Value Group comprises of Operational Facilities professionals from a variety of NHS Trusts including Acute Trusts, Mental Health Trusts and Community Trusts. There are four meetings in each round, the dates are agreed by the members. Meetings are member led and include a joint meeting with members of the Facilities South BVG. The benefits of a joint meeting gives members the opportunity to extend their network on a national basis, share information and discuss the common issues whilst sharing best practice.

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.

“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 FT

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.

Topics for 2020-21

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

- **Covid-19: Recovery of services and areas of good practice**
- **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**

Why join? Our Chair says:

“This years round of meetings includes a joint meeting with colleagues of the Facilities South group. At the joint meeting we are able to attract excellent speakers who are very knowledgeable and influential in their chosen field. 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, take the opportunity and enjoy the benefits of being a member of this worthwhile group.”

Interested?

The first meeting of four will take place on **Wednesday 14th October via Microsoft Teams**. Please contact Marie Cherry for further details:

e: marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Try before you buy place are available, please contact Marie for details.

Health Visiting & School Health Services Network Join us in 2020/21

Our Vision

To support the on-going and consistent development of children, young people and family services through the identification and sharing of innovative practice and working with appropriate professional bodies to shape quality service delivery.

Our Terms of Reference

To support the achievement of consistently improved performance and value for money by:

- ◆ Sharing information including: clinical and working practices, organisational developments, partnership working with external bodies/partners
- ◆ Advising relevant national organisations and professional bodies through the partnership pathways of gaps within Health Visiting, School Nursing and the wider delivery of public health and care to influence research and development
- ◆ Seeking to understand the original vision or intention behind government policy or guidance and disseminate this through the members organisations
- ◆ Interpreting new ideas regarding practice for fellow professionals
- ◆ Developing, nurturing and maintaining relationships with relevant advisory and professional groups for example: Community Practitioner and Health Visitor Association, School and Public Health Nurses Association, Institute of Health Visiting, Department Of Health, Public Health England, NHS England
- ◆ Responding to and taking part in national and regional consultations

Our Joint Chairs say

“Whether you are new to the group or a longer-standing member, as Chairs we agree that we have developed really strong, positive and professional relationships with senior colleagues nationally. We have a common purpose, in that we are all passionate about improving the health needs of children and families and are keen to share best practice and evidence by our workforce.

You cannot underestimate the benefits of networking, coming together and sharing practice and offering solutions based focused attention to real time issues in a protected environment. The support received from members and the NPAG administrative team extends outside of meetings and is given generously. This collective ongoing external support is invaluable in an ever challenging and complex professional context.

Being part of the HV and SHN network provides the opportunity to network with other professionals nationally that lead our HV and SHN vital services to support children, young people and families. The group enables opportunities to share from one another and support shaping service delivery fit for the future. The national leaders and speakers are invaluable and enable raising issues to support discussions for solution focused decision making.

The group also provides the opportunity to raise professional issues affecting the workforce and we have access to national leaders and key note speakers such as Wendy Nicholson, which provides the group with an excellent platform to raise, discuss and support each other in dealing with the complex issues affecting all of our children's and family's services.”

Interested?

The first of four meetings will be taking place on Microsoft Teams on Monday 2nd November 2020. Please contact Laura Howe for further details e: laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

[Try Before You Buy](#) places are available.

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.

If you are interested in working with us either in facilitating one of our national groups or developing a training package that we could deliver together then please contact Marie at the address below:

Marie Cherry: marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk.

What's hot for the coming months

National Networking Group Meetings

October

- Arts, Heritage and Design
- Car Parking & Sustainable Transport
- Nursing & Temporary Staffing
- Facilities North

November

- National District Nurses
- Waste Management
- Clinical Engineering South
- Health Visiting and School Health

December

- NHS Sustainability Leads
- IT & Connectivity
- Decontamination
- Resilience
- Security
- Nursing & Temporary Staffing
- Operating Theatres
- Clinical Engineering North
- Estates
- Telecoms

Workshops & Events

Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses

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)

Conference Dates

Theatres and Decontamination Conference: 25th March 2021, Midlands

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

Waste and Sustainability Conference: 29th April 2021— New Date

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

Clinical Engineering Conference: 14th September 2021, Midlands

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

Contact Us

Email: npagnews@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

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