

# NPAG News

February 2021

Edition 172

Welcome to the February edition of NPAG News.

The new year continues to offer us hope, with vaccination programmes well under way and, although we are still in national Lockdown, new coronavirus cases are declining for the first time for some time.

At NPAG we continue to support you with our range of popular services.

We will, of course, operate virtually until further notice. And we will continue to develop new and improved ways of supporting you in your crucial roles at this most challenging of times. Please see pages 4 and 5 for some of the latest developments.

Last month we began a look at our national Best Value Groups and Networks, which remain at the heart of everything we do.

Our groups are supported by a team of people of which the Chairs provide professional leadership and direction. We thought it was time that we gave our Chairs a voice through the medium of these monthly newsletters, and this month we feature some very interesting and positive comments from several of our Chairs.

This will form part of an ongoing feature placing the spotlight on our national groups. This month we also look at some of the activities that Members are involved with.

We will also focus on the roles of Coordinator and Facilitator. Both have had to adapt and change to meet the demands of working in a virtual environment and we will feature these roles in future editions.

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

**The NPAG Team**

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A recent comment from an NPAG  
Clinical Engineering Member:

*"In an unprecedented year for Healthcare and its medical and technical challenges, the support and instant access to the very latest information from the NPAG Clinical Engineering best practice group has again been an invaluable resource to my department and the organisation"*

## NPAG Best Value Groups— The Chair's role

Continuing our look at our NPAG national Best Value Groups and Networks, this month we focus on the role of the Chair. In 2020, recognising the pivotal role that our Chairs play in the work of a group, we formalised the relationship by producing a Chair's Job Description. At the same time, we introduced a small financial reward in the form of a discounted Membership fee.

For this February edition we decided to invite all our national Chairs to say a few words about what the role means to them. The replies have been extremely positive, and we will be featuring them over the next couple of editions.

### **National District Nurses Network**

*It has been a privilege to be chair (for a number of years) and now more recently as co-chair of the National DN Network. I feel the key to being a successful chair/co-chair comes from the support given by members of the network and our key stakeholders and our joint collaborative passion for wanting to drive forward the District Nursing agenda.*

*As a group we are supported by a wonderful facilitator who helps develop the agenda for the meeting and who completes a lot of work planning behind the scenes.*

*Personally, I would recommend that anyone thinking of putting themselves forward as a chair, to go for it, as it certainly has been great for both my personal and professional development. David Pugh*

### **Estates**

*The role means I am in a privileged position to appreciate and benefit from the perspectives and expertise of the members. It supports my leadership development and provides me opportunity to assist the group to focus on the key issues which will both assist members and the NHS to continuously improve. Hardev Sagoo*

### **Resilience**

*It is a real privilege to chair an NPAG group and feel well supported by Dale and his team. We are a small group but thanks to the input and enthusiasm of the group members it makes the chair role a lot easier! Neil Furness*

### **Facilities South**

*It has been a privilege and with pride I have been your Chair over the last three years. A position I have fully enjoyed and at all times been supported by you the members and the excellent NPAG team. I would like to share with you my Chairs' notes for this very challenging time and the journey we have shared to date.*

*The 2020/2021 round of meetings for the NPAG Facilities South BVG have been challenging and rewarding at the same time. The current Covid 19 pandemic has been with us since early last year and has meant that we have been unable to get together as we always have over our yearly four meetings. Notwithstanding our newly applied "teams" meetings are proving successful and well attended. Our latest joint facilities North and South meeting is a testament to this. As I write this chairs view reflecting on our last year it has reminded me how important for all of us supporting our Clinical colleagues in providing the best possible care how valued I believe having this group to share and network. In the current times even more so.*

*As Chair of the group my aim has been to ensure that each individual member benefits from the wealth and experience of fellow members whilst developing a strong network of likeminded professionals. Brian Willett*

### **Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare**

*Being chair of the NPAG group is a great opportunity to get to know lots of other people in the same profession and to enable networking and support between members. One of my favourite parts of the role is setting agendas and inviting speakers for our meetings, keeping this relevant and interesting to our members. This in turn helps to bring new people into the group. Laura Waters*

Please do keep the comments coming. We will be including more messages in the next edition of NPAG News.

## NPAG Best Value Groups— Latest Activity

As part of our ongoing look at our NPAG national Best Value Groups and Networks, this month we also investigate some of the latest projects and activities across the groups.

**The NHS Sustainability Leads Network** Members have been invited to participate in an international project being led by the Healthcare Plastics Recycling Council (HPRC). HPRC are undertaking an important study into barriers to recycling. A number of our Member Trusts have come forward to participate following an introduction by Esther Coffin-Smith our Member for North Bristol NHS Trust.

**The NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport Network** Members have been invited to work with Liftshare, an organisation that is developing new services to Trusts under the new brand of MobilityWays to support them in moving towards a Net Zero NHS. The focus is particularly on finding alternative ways to travel to Hospital.

**NPAG Clinical Engineering Members** have been offered a free Session – a 30minute presentation that the Facilitator has arranged. See below. This Network is split into North and South groups with new rounds commencing in March, see page 5 for details.



## Oxygen Concentrators National Performance Advisory Group

NPAG are pleased to provide a complimentary presentation on oxygen concentrators on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 1:30pm. The session will be presented by Tricia Nguyen of CAIRE inc, UK.

At a time when hospitals' oxygen usage is under increased demand many are turning to the use of oxygen concentrators to provide additional capacity. Join us to find out what they are and how they produce oxygen 'out of thin air'!

Please contact Marie Cherry at [Marie.Cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:Marie.Cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk) for a Microsoft Teams invite.

## Helping our Members - NPAG Network

The NPAG Network supports 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.



Each month we provide a small sample of recent requests from across the groups. Once again these reflect the huge spread of subject areas covered:

*“Hope you are all managing to stay safe and well. As part of our work on the 1st 1000 days strategy I am on a work stream looking at Families in the Community. We are exploring peer support models in communities for parents of children in this cohort. I would be really grateful if anyone had any examples or knowledge of existing groups they could share.”*

Health Visiting & School Health Services Network Member

*“Any chance you could ask the group if anyone has any experience with / using ‘e cargo bikes’ we are looking to trial some next year and it would be good to get some feedback of experiences – good or bad.”*

NHS Transport & Logistics BPG Member

*“Does anyone have any examples of an EV charging policy as ours is due a refresh? ”*

NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport Network Member

*“Can I please put the following query to the group, Has anyone got: 1. Business case and job description for a band 5 technician, 2. Business case and job description for Equipment library technician band 3?”*

Clinical Engineering South Member

*“Could members please advise which water softeners they use for renal dialysis treatment in the critical care environment. Ordinarily used on a portable trolley on the ward. We are struggling to find a suitable device that is CE marked to the MDD.”*

Clinical Engineering North 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](mailto:npagnetwork@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

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

## Join today! Clinical Engineering BVG 2021

The NPAG Clinical Engineering North and South Best Value Groups are two expert groups, enabling NHS Clinical Engineers to meet and share new ideas. Discussions on common problems, measurement of service providers performance, providing cost effective solutions, creative and innovative service design and networking take place with colleagues involved in this complex area. Both groups are aligned with common meeting agendas which include standard items such as identification of cost saving initiatives which aid efficiency and help departments save money. These savings can easily account for the membership fee. Data for Benchmarking is collated along with nationally standardised Key Performance Indicators.

Members are keen to invite key speakers to meetings which always comprise an educational content, underpinning the CPD scheme. Membership consists of three meetings on MS Teams and attendance to the annual NPAG Clinical Engineering Conference, which will be taking place on 14th September 2021.

***“In an unprecedented year for Healthcare and its medical and technical challenges, the support and instant access to the very latest information from the NPAG Clinical Engineering best practice group has again been an invaluable resource to my department and the organisation.”*** Medical Engineering Services Manager, The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, 2020 Member

### Key agenda items for 2021 meetings include:

- Benchmarking of Trust, budget and staffing
- Implementation of KPI targets
- Apprenticeship routes and courses
- Updates on new equipment and future trends
- Comparison of COVID PPM impact
- Device training—how to do it effectively
- Open forum of cost savings and other initiatives
- Areas of good practice/problems
- Peer review of policies & procedures
- Recovery plans and risk assessments
- NPAG Network review of questions
- Review of information sharing & OneDrive data

### Current Challenges:

- Succession Planning—How to do it right!
- The future of accreditation
- Budget Pressures— Ideas to get ahead
- Quality Improvements
- Management of Risk
- Managing maintenance under increased operational pressure

### Why join?

#### Our Clinical Engineering Facilitator says:

*“Joining the NPAG Clinical Engineering groups brings with it opportunities to discuss topics of mutual interest and to learn from others who are working in the same profession. Members are happy to share their own experiences in managing Clinical Engineering departments in areas such as training, resources, technical issues, quality and efficiencies. Common pressures are discussed and best practice shared. At each of the meetings there are educational sessions where a topic of new clinical or test equipment may be discussed, or guidance on new or existing regulations presented. The opportunity to take part in National Clinical Engineering Department benchmarking provides members with hard data to use in supporting local business cases for improved resources and funding.”*

### FREE GMDN Membership Included

Free membership access for all NPAG Clinical Engineering North and South BVG members to the Global Medical Device Nomenclature Agency website : [www.gmdnagency.org](http://www.gmdnagency.org).

GMDN is a system of internationally agreed terms used to identify medical devices.

### Interested?

Join us for meeting 1 on MS Teams as follows;

- Southern BVG: Meeting 1, 2nd March 2021
- Northern BVG: Meeting 1, 9th March 2021

Please email Marie to register:

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

**Try Before You Buy places** are available, please contact Marie for information.



## Health Visiting & School Health Services Network Meeting 2— Thursday 4th March 2021, MS Teams

We are a national networking group of NHS Managers and Professional Leads involved in the leadership and delivery of healthcare services across the 0-19 age group. We meet four times a year, in London / the Midlands, attracting members from across the country. During the lockdown period, all NPAG networking groups have been successfully meeting on Microsoft Teams. Membership offers CPD points.

NB. Due to the ongoing impact of coronavirus some meetings may be virtual.

### What have we been doing?

We have provided great benefit to our membership - partly through organising excellent speakers from, among others:

- Leads within Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England / Improvement - both very active supporters of our group
- Our own members' Trusts on a range of innovative projects such as Home Conditions Assessment by Regender Athi and Randeep Kaur, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals, Surrey 0 – 19 Advice Line by Jayne White and Anita Lamb and 'Living Your Best Life' by Tatenda Chigodora, E. London
- Other Trusts and organisations working on innovative projects across the country and regular updates from professional bodies active in the field, such as SAPHNA, iHV and CPHVA.

*"Meeting up with colleagues across the UK allows a rich exchange of information and experience sharing."* 2019-20 Member

*"The passion and commitment for children and young people is evident in the meetings and generates energy. Access to local and national initiatives and key updates at government level are imperative to NPAG members as they strive to sustain professional health services".* 2017 Member

### Time to think, discuss and plan

Perhaps the most important feature of the meetings is the Members' Exchange, where anything can be brought to the table for discussion in a completely confidential environment.

Members all value the opportunity to learn about and reflect on the many different approaches to management, service delivery and the significant changes and challenges facing services to children, young people and families. We believe strongly in sharing and not reinventing the wheel, so policies and processes, innovations, ideas and good practice are freely shared. Between meetings we make use of the NPAG Network to ask questions of a wider audience and the documents stored on the protected area on the NPAG website.

### Why join? Our Chair says:

*"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."*

### Interested?

Why not come and see for yourself and you can Try Before You Buy! The second meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 4th March 2021.

Please contact Laura Howe for further details:

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

**Try Before You Buy** places are available, please contact Laura for information.

## Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses 2021

Occupational Health Nurses are leaders in public health in the workplace setting. Their role is pivotal and it is, therefore, imperative that their training provides them with the necessary knowledge and competencies.

NPAG's Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses training programme is suitable for clinicians at all levels and experience within Occupational Health. The teaching provided within these modules provides opportunities for professional preceptorship and mentoring, differentiating the training at all levels. The intention is to provide nurses with the daily clinical and professional skills and experience that they require to undertake their duties. Those attending will gain clinical skills, which will serve to support further academic qualifications and training.

It is our recommendation that Occupational Health Nurses with 2 years or less experience should attend. This year we are offering our standard full day modules which will take place in the Midlands in a Covid secure venue, and we will also be offering a half day version of each module on MS Teams. Please see below the module dates:

### Employment Health Screening

- Venue: Wednesday 26th May 2021
- MS Teams: Wednesday 24th March 2021, half day

### Fitness for Work

- Venue: Wednesday 2nd June 2021
- MS Teams: Wednesday 31st March 2021, half day

### Skin & Respiratory Surveillance: History Taking & Case Management

- Venue: Wednesday 5th May 2021
- MS Teams: Wednesday 3rd March 2021, half day

### Sickness Absence Management Referrals

- Venue: Wednesday 12th May 2021
- MS Teams: Wednesday 10th March 2021, half day

### Occupational Health Condition Management

- Venue: Wednesday 19th May 2021
- MS Teams: Wednesday 17th March 2021, half day

### Health Surveillance: History Taking & Case Management

- Venue: Wednesday 9th June 2021
- MS Teams: Wednesday 7th April 2021, half day

**'Excellent course. Informative. Opportunity for discussion & sharing experiences.'** *Fitness For Work, Physiotherapy Lead Staff Health & Wellbeing, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board*

**'Invaluable course - will prepare me for my future career in Occupational Health.'** *Skin & Respiratory Surveillance History Taking & Case Management, Registered Staff Nurse, University Hospitals Bristol NHS FT*

**'Really useful day - very knowledgeable trainer.'** *Occupational Health Condition Management, Occupational Health Nurse, Kettering General Hospital NHS FT*

**'It was a great study day - very useful, relevant and well presented. Probably one of the best study days I have been on in many years.'** *Sickness Absence Management Referrals, Occ Health Advisor, John Radcliffe Hospital*

### Interested?

Please contact Marie Cherry for further information including specific module information: E: [marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk).

**A 10% discount will be applied to all bookings submitted by the 22nd February 2021.**

We advise use of a USB web cam for the online training workshops. All modules will include copies of the documentation electronically and are CPD accredited.

## Customised Healthcare Waste Management Vocational Qualification

ICERMS has developed three distinct vocational qualifications in partnership with the Scottish Qualifications Authority and our own Waste Management BVG. These unique qualifications have been designed around the specific competencies required for the complex and demanding role of a healthcare waste manager.

Each qualification is mapped to the UK and EU Qualification Frameworks. The qualification units are each drawn from an overarching healthcare waste management suite of vocational education units and each qualification pathway reflects one of three key roles in the healthcare waste management sector:

1. **Healthcare Waste Manager at a Healthcare Facility (15 Mandatory and 5 Optional Units)**
2. **Healthcare Waste Manager at a Healthcare Waste Treatment Facility (9 Mandatory and 6 Optional Units)**
3. **Healthcare Waste Manager at Healthcare Waste Transport Operations (9 Mandatory and 3 Optional Units)**

**Interested?** For further information about this bespoke qualification and the assessment process please contact:  
E: [scott@icerms.com](mailto:scott@icerms.com) or E: [marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk).

## What's hot for the coming months

### National Networking Group Meetings

#### February

- Arts, Heritage and Design
- Estates
- NHS Sustainability Leads
- Violence Reduction and Security
- Waste Management

#### March

- Clinical Engineering North and South
- Health Visiting and School Health Services
- IT & Connectivity
- Nursing and Temporary Staffing
- 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

**Waste and Sustainability Conference: 29th April 2021**

**Virtual**

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

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