

# NPAG News

March 2021

Edition 173

Welcome to the March edition of NPAG News.

As we take our first steps into the spring months, and with the Government's recent announcement about a proposed roadmap out of Lockdown, we can at last begin to look forward to the future with more confidence.

At NPAG we will, of course, continue to operate virtually until further notice, but we can now start to plan for the return of face-to-face meetings and events later in the year.

In the meantime, we are designing our first major Event of 2021 on a virtual platform. The Waste Management and Sustainability Conference will take place on 29 April and will be jointly hosted with NHS England / NHS Improvement. Please see page 6 for details and how to join.

Since the start of the year we have been featuring our national Best Value Groups and Networks, which remain at the heart of everything we do. The groups are supported by a team of people. Last month we looked at the role of the Chair and heard from several of our current Chairs who provide professional leadership and direction.

We also said we would look at the roles of Coordinator and Facilitator, both of which have had to adapt and change to meet the demands of working in a virtual environment. This month we focus on the Coordinator (P. 2) and there are also recently-received Chairs' comments here on the front page and inside.

Also in this edition of NPAG News you will find an update on the busy NPAG Network and the Best Value Groups that are soon to begin new rounds of meetings.

Best wishes and please stay safe.

**The NPAG Team**

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A recent comment from the Chair of the Clinical Engineering North Group:

*"The last twelve months have been the most challenging that most of us will have experienced in our careers and I have been very impressed by the way we have stepped up to support our organisations. Although we haven't been able to meet in person this year it has been very useful to be able to meet virtually and provide advice, support and reassurance to each other. I hope that everyone will appreciate the advantage that access to such a strong support network gives us and I look forward to seeing our numbers expand."*

Peter Owens, Heartlands Hospital

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

Continuing our look at our NPAG national Best Value Groups and Networks, this month we focus on the role of the Coordinator. The BVG Coordinator works with the Facilitator to support to the group members. Key duties are:

*New round:*

Work in partnership with the Facilitator to produce marketing material making use of the group's Annual Report, minutes, evaluation form feedback and member testimonials

Produce final copy of postal, email and web marketing and distribute

Issue previous members with renewal documentation, prompt for returns, record responses and work towards securing new members (in partnership with group Facilitator)

Create an email distribution list, membership and attendance lists, and send welcome email to all members

*For each meeting:*

Format and issue meeting agenda and venue information

Arrange Facilitator requirements, room layout, projector, etc - or set up the MS Teams invitations if a virtual meeting

Confirm with the Facilitator if the meeting is viable to go ahead and ensure final requirements confirmed with venue / MS Teams

Format and issue meeting minutes and presentations / meeting documents ensuring they are also uploaded on to the members' area within the NPAG website, and MS Teams Channel.

Laura Howe is our newest BVG Coordinator and we asked her for her thoughts on the role:

*I have been a BVG Co-ordinator at NPAG for six months now. It gives me a great sense of achievement that I am doing my bit as one of many tiny cogs in the huge wheel that helps keep the NHS at the top of its game. The groups I manage vary in so many different ways but fundamentally the people behind it are all working together to progress, attain and share knowledge to achieve great successes within their department, for their Trust and ultimately the NHS as a whole.*

*Every day brings different challenges. Every day I learn something new. The response to Covid-19 has created a new and different aspect to my role. I am much more involved in the on-line meetings and I have gained great knowledge of the different roles and areas of the NHS that we support. This has enabled me to better understand the pressures of our members and, in turn, adapt to support and help them in the different ways they require. Organising, investigating, implementing, actioning, supporting, helping, learning; I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with a great team here at NPAG, and I am eager to see what this year brings.*

Laura Howe, Project Support Manager, NPAG

And a little more from a BVG Chair to round off this month's report:

*"I have been a member of NPAG CE since 2018. This group has been a great opportunity to know colleagues in the same role in different NHS hospitals and becoming acquainted with the way they approach the daily challenges in CE department and grasp some of the improvements implemented in their departments. During the quarterly meetings, a variety of topics have been discussed such as technical training, apprenticeships, level of customer's service from different companies and most important of all benchmarking data for KPIs which can be significantly helpful for new business cases. During the pandemic, it has been very much beneficial to share the information on new types of practices and their associated risks and share some of the solutions have been pursued. I strongly recommend everyone with responsibilities in Clinical Engineering to join and get the benefit of this network."*

Maryam Mirjafari, Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Chair of the NPAG Clinical Engineering South Group

## 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 spread of subject areas and the different groups covered:

***“Which traceability system are people working with in their sterile service departments, and can I have feedback to pros and cons on these systems?”***

Decontamination Member

***“I am interested in getting an idea of the response rate expected for staff travel surveys. Is anyone able to share their response rate for travel surveys and how frequent they run the survey. In addition are all staff invited or just a sample?”***

NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport Network Member

***“Can you share your Clinical Training Policy please.”***

Clinical Engineering South Member

***“Could you reach out to the NPAG Sustainability Leads group and ask whether they could share any job descriptions that would be relevant for the following positions:***

- ***Sustainability lead / head of sustainability (likely 8B banded)***
- ***Active travel officer?”***

NHS Sustainability Leads Network Member

***“Does anyone have a separate policy in relation to allergens for their Trust? Would need to cover all aspects of catering from patients to staff & visitors and charity sales too.”***

Facilities South Member

***“Does anyone use overhead heaters for Burns Patients and if so what make and model do you use?”***

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).

## Clinical Engineering North and South 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 presentations 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

### 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 as [www.gmdnagency.org](http://www.gmdnagency.org). GMDN is a system of internationally agreed terms used to identify medical devices.

### Interested?

Southern Group: Meeting 1: 14th April 2021, MS Teams / Northern Group: Meeting 1: 21st April 2021, MS Teams  
Please contact Marie for further details: E: [marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

**Try Before You Buy** places are available.

## Join Today! Resilience Development Network 2021-22

EPRR (Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response) has always been an extremely important function in the NHS. As it becomes even more important (evidenced during the COVID-19 outbreak) so the role of the Resilience Development Network (RDN) ever more helpful in supporting those who play a lead role in this area. The RDN is a very well established and very well-respected forum and has served many NHS EPRR staff over the years.

*“The NPAG Resilience Development network, gives me exposure to EPRR Managers across the country, where there is a shared sense of experiences and a desire to learn from others, in a friendly relaxed atmosphere. This unique opportunity to mix with like-minded peers and share learning enables me to bring learning from a larger pool back to the organisation. The ability to network opens up new opportunities which are not part of our local system and when these arise are limited in and therefore NPAG opens up discussion and debate across a much larger spectrum. Another very positive aspect to the group for me, is the subject matter experts. Finally the contacts that I have formed through NPAG means there is always someone on the end of an email or phone or is willing to share and support, proving the worth of the network not only at meetings but throughout the calendar year!”* EPRR Manager, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust

We recognise that there are several local forums where EPRR staff come together but one of the major benefits of the RDN is that it is a national group with members coming from across the country – thereby offering a greater range of sharing and learning. The EPRR agenda is large and complex. To help address some of the challenges here the following have been identified as topics to be covered by the RDN:

- EPRR Assurance
- Hazmat / CBRNE
- Learning from Local Incidents and Exercises
- Sharing Good Practice
- Lockdown guidance and procedures
- Disease Outbreaks
- National Occupational Standards for Civil Contingencies
- Dynamic Risk Assessment
- National Risk Register
- Resilient Telecommunications
- Business Continuity Management
- Major Incident Planning / Mass Casualty
- Learning from Major Incidents e.g., Grenfell, Manchester, Westminster Bridge, etc
- Responders + Victims Welfare
- CQC Inspections
- Industrial Action
- Cyber Security
- Shelter & Evacuation

In addition, each meeting has a ‘Hot Topics’ slot where members can raise ad hoc issues that are of concern to them or that they need help and advice with. Outside of the meetings themselves the RDN members continue networking with each other via regular email and telephone communications facilitated by the NPAG facilitator and the overall NPAG team. To support its work the RDN receives expert input from: National Leaders in BCM & ISO 22301, Member of the Executive Council - The Institute of Civil Protection & Emergency Management, NHS Digital - plus other recognised expert speakers in the given fields. All of this is complimented by the significant and wide-ranging knowledge and expertise of the RDN members themselves.

### Who would benefit from joining?

Anyone in the NHS who has a lead role in EPRR (Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response) including Emergency Planning Officers, Business Continuity Managers, Site Operations Manager and Resilience Managers.

### Why join? Our Chair says:

*“It has been a pleasure to chair the Resilience Development Network meetings over the last year. The meetings have proved to be an invaluable opportunity to; exchange ideas/discuss lessons learnt with colleagues across the country ; share organisational and partner agency challenges; share good practice; actively support others going through similar resilience challenges”*

**Interested?** Meeting 1 will take place on **11th May** via **MS Teams**, followed by 3 further meetings. Please contact Laura Howe for further information including try before you but places **E: [laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)**

## Waste and Sustainability Virtual Conference A Net Zero NHS, 29th April 2021

### Why Attend?

On Thursday 29th April 2021, we will be delivering our second Waste and Sustainability Conference. This year our conference is delivered with support from NHS England & NHS Improvement. The conference theme is **'A Net Zero NHS'** – linked of course to the 'For a Greener NHS' initiative.

The health and care system in England is responsible for an estimated 4-5% of the country's carbon footprint so has a major role to play in supporting this. The NHS has therefore committed to reaching Net Zero as soon as possible, requiring the support of all 1.3 million NHS employees.

The UK was the first major economy in the world to pass a law to end its contribution to climate change. This means that the UK will aim to balance any emissions generated through emission cutting or removal efforts – so called 'Net Zero'.

Given the importance of the NHS in our national life, how quickly the NHS can advance to Net Zero will affect how quickly the country as a whole succeeds. This is a one day conference aimed at NHS Managers and Leads in Waste Management and Sustainability.

### The NPAG Virtual Conference Guarantee

This is the safest way for us to deliver this important conference to you. The experience we will be offering will provide you with ample networking time with your peers, the presenters and exhibitors. Presentations will offer plenty of opportunity for Q&A and engagement can still take place once the conference is over. The programme has been managed to ensure sufficient break times which you can use to step away from your screen or schedule meetings with fellow attendees. All attendees will receive a CPD certificate.

### Delegate Feedback:

*"As a new individual to waste management in the NHS I found the day very useful and informative with excellent speakers."*

*Robert Jones and Angus Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital*

*"The event provided a wealth of knowledge from a range of sectors within Healthcare waste including ample time for networking during the event."*

*Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust*

### The Programme

The Programme this year will be packed with current and informative sessions on how the NHS is pursuing the Net Carbon Zero agenda.

The conference will be chaired by NPAG's Dale Atkins, Business Associate, and Fiona Daly, National Sustainability & EFM Workforce Lead, NHS England & NHS Improvement. Fiona will also be presenting **A Zero Net NHS - the National Perspective**.

We are honoured to announce the following presentations on the agenda:

- **Being an NPAG Member**, Dave Tucker, Waste Management BVG Chair
- **Presentation Title TBC**, Ben Tongue, Sustainability Manager – Improvement Team, NHS Digital
- **Journey to Net Zero Carbon – opportunities and challenges in an Acute Trust**, Claire Igoe, Joint Chair of NPAG Sustainability Group, Acting Head of Environmental Sustainability, Manchester University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- **The Strategy of Doing Stuff**, Heidi Barnard, Group Head of Sustainability, Northern Care Alliance NHS Group
- **Introduction to Healthcare Plastics Recycling Council**, Rob Massey, Amcor & Steven Meun, HPRC
- **Road to Zero for Fleets / Ambulances**, Alex Percival, Environmental & Sustainability Manager, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- **Re-use and recycling opportunities for plastics in the NHS**, Mick Claes, Senior Consultant AXION - Circular Economy Specialists
- **Decarbonising Building and Energy Supply for Carbon Net Zero**, Joe Ernst-Herman, Dep. Dir. Decarbonisation & Konrad Hutchins Commercial Specialist, Technology Pillar and Darren Moore, Ass. Commercial Specialist, Buildings Pillar, CCS

### Interested?

This is a one-day virtual conference in association with [ReAttendance](#), taking place on Thursday 29th April 2021. Please contact us for further details:

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

Note: The virtual platform is compatible with Chrome or Microsoft Edge only.

**NHS delegates will receive a discounted rate on bookings made before the 12th March 2021.**

## Executive Sponsorship Package and Virtual Exhibition Waste and Sustainability Virtual Conference 2021

NPAG are pleased to launch a sponsorship package for the Waste and Sustainability Virtual Conference which is taking place on the 29th April 2021. This conference will be delivered on the virtual platform by ReAttendance.

### The Virtual Exhibition Area

With an easily accessible virtual expo floor, our sponsors and exhibitors can be viewed in one area and categorised accordingly to make you easy to find. Attendees can access an exclusive area dedicated to each sponsor by simply clicking on your company logo. Here they will be able to view your company information, see your virtual business card, take advantage of any special offers, download any content you wish to make available and most excitingly talk to you ...live!

Getting real time answers to their burning questions and creating a personal connection.

### What the Package includes:

- Company logo to be included within all conference marketing material.
- Company logo to be included on NPAG website in the run up to conference.
- Company logo to be visible on all correspondence relating to the event.
- 1 x 1/2-page advertisement within NPAG News (Spring/Summer editions 2021).
- Recognition of sponsorship across our website and social media platforms.
- Prominent view of company logo in the Virtual Event Lobby – One touch link direct to your space in the Virtual Exhibition Area.

**Interested?** Please email us for further information: E: [info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk).

Note: The ReAttendance platform is accessible using Chrome or Microsoft Edge only.

## Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses 2021

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.

Our trainer Lucy Kenyon, has adapted all modules so they can be delivered in a morning session via MS Teams. Please see below the module dates:

- **Sickness Absence Management Referrals**, Wednesday 10th March 2021
- **Occupational Health Condition Management**, Wednesday 17th March 2021
- **Employment Health Screening**, Wednesday 24th March 2021
- **Fitness for Work**, Wednesday 31st March 2021
- **Health Surveillance: History Taking & Case Management**, Wednesday 7th April 2021

**Interested?** Please contact Marie Cherry for booking information: E: [marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk).

## 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

#### March

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

#### April

- Facilities North
- NHS Transport & Logistics
- National District Nurses Network

### 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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