

# NPAG News

June 2021

Edition 176

Welcome to the June issue of NPAG News.

Since writing the front piece for the last Edition, there has been a significant step along the roadmap out of Lockdown. With further relaxation anticipated later this month.

Although we have yet to hold a traditional NPAG face to face event or meeting we are now making firm plans to do so.

A number of our Best Value Groups are renewing or have just done so and we expect to return to traditional meetings in the autumn.

It is unlikely that there will be a return to the normality of pre-March 2020. We are aware that some Trusts have already indicated that staff will not be able to travel to meetings or events during the next winter period, for example, but a mix of virtual and face to face meetings at last seems realistic.

Clearly, funding will be tighter for some time and it would good to hear your views on the mix of meeting styles that you would like to see.

Having now reviewed all your feedback following our first major virtual Conference, the Waste Management and Sustainability Conference on 29 April, we are giving some thought to the format of future NPAG events. While the feedback was very positive, it was clear that some do miss the atmosphere and overall experience of a venue-based conference.

In 2021 editions of NPAG News, we have been looking at our national Best Value Groups. For the final one in the series we look at collaboration between groups and how our Facilitators work together to ensure joined-up working for the benefit of our BVG Members.

Also in this edition you will find an update on the busy NPAG Network.

Best wishes and please stay safe.

**The NPAG Team**

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### Feedback from a Waste Management group Member:

*I have been in the NHS for over 15 years with a responsibility for waste among other responsibilities. I have been a member of the NPAG Waste Manager group for a number of years, having held the position of both chairperson and vice chair (A position I currently hold). I could not recommend a better group to be a member of."*

**Homerton University Hospital NHS FT**

## NPAG Best Value Groups— Joined-up working

Concluding our look at NPAG national Best Value Groups and Networks, this month we look at some of the joint working and sharing between groups, aimed at giving our Members an enhanced experience.

### Clinical Engineering and IT & Connectivity

The two NPAG Clinical Engineering Groups effectively spawned a new IT group a few years ago when their own very full agendas no longer permitted sufficient time to be allocated to discussions around the IT aspects of procuring and managing medical devices. There is synergy between the groups and we are currently considering a one-off joint meeting with a common agenda—which may develop into a more structured form of collaboration.

### Waste Management and Sustainability

As we reported in the front piece, the theme 'A Net Zero NHS' – linked to the 'For a Greener NHS' initiative, was the theme for the second national NPAG Waste Management and Sustainability Conference. The success of this event underlined the importance of close collaboration between the two NPAG groups. Joint working is not restricted to the annual Conference, but continues throughout the year with shared agenda items and national speakers from NHSE / NHSI and other bodies working closely with both networks.

This whole topic area is one that is firmly on the international stage and the timing of our recent event couldn't have been better with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (known as COP26) coming up in November and being held in the UK.

### Operating Theatres and Decontamination

NPAG have recently established an annual combined conference for Members of these two groups. The next event is not until March 2022, but already plans are afoot for some combined sessions, so that the subject is presented from both theatres and decontaminations viewpoint. The aim is to improve understanding of each other's roles and pressures.

### Facilities

In terms of collaboration, the two NPAG Facilities (north and south) groups come together for a joint meeting once or twice per year. The related Estates group at present tends to work more in isolation, but have expressed interest in environmental issues, energy, and waste.

To offer added value to Members, NPAG are going to explore ways of facilitating centrally the sharing of presentation details across all related groups with a view giving access to a wider range of speakers.

### Children's Services

The current NPAG Health Visiting and School Health Services Network started out with a wider children and family services brief. Over time, the agendas became more focused and the group changed its name to reflect current interests. At our meeting this month we will be exploring how we can better collaborate with midwifery services—for which there is currently no dedicated NPAG group.

For more information about NPAG's wide range of national networks please contact Marie Cherry.

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

## 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. These are some of the recent requests:



***“We are currently trying to formalise our leases and SLA with NHS PS. We are having issues with moving these forward, has any trust managed to agree and sign of their leases? Also has anyone managed to get agreement on an SLA with performance criteria included?”***

NHS Sustainability Leads Member

***“I have been approached by an architect practice who wants to put some plants into a big public hospital atrium and is searching for precedents to demonstrate it can be done. Do any NPAG members have any large plants inside their hospital internal public/circulation areas?”***

Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare Network Member

***“Could members let me know of any Rapid Blood Infusers they are using other than the Belmont FMS 2000 (which is coming out of support next year), the Belmont RI-2 (the current Belmont offering) and the Level 1. I would be interested in knowing what other devices are available and what opinions people have of them.”***

Clinical Engineering North and South

***“We are looking to insource our domestic team and would very much appreciate if anyone is able to share a Domestic Services Manager JD.”***

Facilities South Member

***“Does anyone within the group reprocess Tan Endoglide Forcep 23G? Who do they purchase their forceps from?”***

Decontamination Member

***“Please could you ask colleagues on the NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport Network group whether their Trusts run schemes to provide subsidised/salary sacrifice travel passes for public transport for staff travel to work, and, if so, could I have details please.”***

NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Transport Network Member

***“What is the process for band 6 and above reviewing and /or re assessing pressure ulcer patients either initial assessment or reviews.”***

National District Nurse Network 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).

## Waste Management BVG 2021-22– Join Us! Meeting 1—2nd September 2021, MS Teams

The importance of Waste Management in the NHS has never been greater and so too the role of the NPAG Waste Management group – particularly in light of the ‘**Net Zero NHS**’ initiative.

The group is very well established and continues to grow year on year– having almost a 100 members in the last round. If you have a role in waste management in the NHS, this is the group for you! It is very well respected by both members and outside agencies as the following reflects:

*“I could not recommend a better group to be a member of if you have a responsibility for health care waste. I have yet to come across a question that cannot be answered or good advice given from the membership, and unlimited support from colleagues in the NHS.”* Environmental Sustainability Manager, Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

*“I have gained further knowledge in various new ways to improve waste management within the Trust I work, including environmental initiatives, new training methods and follow good waste management practices. I cannot speak highly enough of the organisation and recommend it for not only best value but for best knowledge.”* Portering, Distribution & Waste Manager, University Hospitals Bristol NHS FT

*“As a relatively new guest to the NPAG BVG, I have been bowled over by the professionalism of the members. The depth of knowledge in the room and willingness to help each other and share experiences is invaluable. This ‘self-support network’ for healthcare waste managers has been a revelation and I can’t emphasize enough the value that all attendees benefit from.”* Senior Advisor, Hazardous Waste Transfer / Treatment & Metal Recycling, Environment Agency

### Meetings, Themes and Topics for 2021-22

The first meeting in the 2021-22 round will take place on the 2nd September via MS Teams, followed by a further three more meetings taking place Face2Face in Birmingham and on MS Teams.

A major benefit of the Waste Management BVG is that it is a national group with members coming from across the country, thereby offering a greater range of sharing and learning.

The NHS waste management agenda is large and complex. To help address some of the challenges here are just some of the topics for the new round: **New waste technologies, Cost effectiveness of these technologies, Plastic recycling, Waste tenders, General recycling, Confidential waste destruction, Regulatory requirements, Job Descriptions, Food waste, IT systems / electrical waste, Offensive waste stream, Community waste, Waste stream revenue opportunities, Staff Education / awareness raising / induction.**

Each meeting has a ‘Hot Topics’ slot where members can raise current issues that are of concern to them or that they need help and advice with. Outside of the meetings members continue to network with each other via email and telephone communications facilitated by the NPAG facilitator – enabling members to ask questions, seek guidance and often receiving answers the same day.

To support its work the Waste Management group will continue to receive expert input from: **NHS E+I, Environment Agency, CIWM, ICERMS, DEFRA, Crown Commercial Services, industry representatives plus other NHS and non-NHS leaders in this field.** All of this complemented by the significant and wide-ranging knowledge and expertise of the members themselves.

### Why join? Our Chair says:

*“Coming hot on the heels of the major disposal chain disruption many of us recently endured, the events of the past year or so have surely highlighted, once again, the huge benefits that can be gained by the pooling of knowledge and experience and the willingness to all work together with a shared goal.”*

### Interested?

Please contact **Marie Cherry** for further information:

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

Try before you buy places are available.

## Facilities South BVG 2021-22 Meeting 1—28th July 2021, MS Teams

The NPAG Facilities South Best Value Group is a specialist group enabling NHS senior operational managers to share best value initiatives, discuss operational concerns and measure service performance using benchmarking activities and review cost effective solutions. The NHS is in a constant period of change and increasing demands placed on clinical and non-clinical services. Covid 19 has created demands on the NHS like never before. The way in which facilities staff have responded to the challenge presented by covid has been exemplary. As the NHS enters the recovery phase, trusts are deciding what the new normal will be. There has never been a more important time to take the opportunity to network and learn from likeminded NHS colleagues and use the group synergy to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the various activities provided. Facilities are a critical enabler in ensuring excellent clinical services can be delivered.

The group has been well established for a number of years and has worked to form strong links with NHSEI colleagues. The group meets 4 times per year which includes one or two joint meetings with members of the facilities north group.

The agenda of the meetings is chosen by members based on hot topics and areas of concern. Each meeting includes a presentation on products or services as well as presentations from key personnel from NHSEI who are leading on national initiatives. Some of the topics planned for this year include but are not limited to:

- **National cleaning standards implementation**
- **National food standards and initiatives**
- **PLACE**
- **ERIC and the model hospital**
- **Laundry, Linen and portering services**

*“Being a member of the Facilities South BVG has a really positive effect on my decision making. Managing a hospital FM department can be really challenging and stressful at times so meeting up with a group of people who are in very similar situations and have the same issues to solve can only be a good thing – especially in these difficult times. It came as a shock to me last year to be voted in as vice-chair, but very rewarding too. When we meet the wealth of FM expertise in the room is vast and there is always someone able to support whatever issue or query a colleague may have. With the “on point” speakers at each meeting we are always one step ahead of change. I would highly recommend joining to all who manage an FM portfolio in the NHS.”* Head of Facilities, UCLH

### Why join? Our Chair says:

*“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 recent joint facilities North and South meeting is a testament to this. As I write this chair's 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.”*

### Interested?

Meeting 1 will take place on the 28th July 2021 via MS Teams followed by a further 3 more meetings dates which will take place in person and via MS Teams. Please contact Marie Cherry for further details.

E: [marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk) Try before you buy places are available.



## 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

#### June

- Arts, Heritage & Design in Healthcare
- Health Visiting & School Health Services
- IT & Connectivity
- Decontamination
- Nursing and Temporary Staffing
- Telecoms
- Clinical Engineering North & South
- Decontamination

#### July

- Facilities North & South
- National District Nurses
- Car Parking & Sustainable Transport
- Violence Reduction & Security Management
- NHS Transport & Logistics

### Workshops & Events

**Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses 2022**

**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

**Clinical Engineering**

**Conference: 14th September 2021, Midlands**

Register your interest with:

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

**NDNN Conference:**

**19th October 2021, London**

Register your interest with:

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

**Theatres and Decontamination**

**Conference: 24th March 2022, Midlands**

Register your interest with:

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

## Contact Us

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