

NPAG News

August 2021

Edition 178

Welcome to the August issue of NPAG News.

At last, as promised in recent editions of this newsletter, we are resuming our face-to-face Best Value Group meetings this month!

The first one, taking place on 3rd August will be the Resilience Development Network (RDN) hosted at a Member Trust - St Pancras Hospital. RDN Facilitator, Dale Atkins said: ***'We are delighted to be the first group to return to face-to-face meetings. This is a very positive move and we will be monitoring the day closely and feed back all the learning points to the NPAG Team'***.

Understandably, some Members are still more cautious and NPAG are looking into a range of options for the future including the possibility of hybrid meetings where some Members that wish to meet around a table can do so, with others having the option of joining in remotely. Clearly we need to be satisfied that this could be delivered to a high standard and discussions are currently ongoing. An update will follow shortly.

Also in this issue, you will find all the details of our 2021 Clinical Engineering Conference that is taking place in Coventry in September. We are delighted that the exhibition space is already sold out!

Our Best Value Groups continue to attract new membership—please see Page 2 for current NPAG offers. And the NPAG Network has never been busier! See Page 3. Many cross-cutting themes are emerging—A Net Zero NHS, Staff wellbeing as we recover from Covid, reimagining our NHS Estate in light of changed working patterns—these are just a few. NPAG are looking at how our Best Value Groups can support our Members in these changing times. Look out for further announcements.

In the meantime, best wishes from all at NPAG and please stay safe.

The NPAG Team

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A very positive comment from a Member of the fast-growing NPAG Violence Reduction and Security Management Network:

'Many thanks Dale, It was my first meeting yesterday and I found the day really engaging and provided opportunities for like-minded professionals to network'

Security & Risk Manager, Bolton NHS FT

NPAG Offers 2021

At NPAG we are keen to make our unique range of 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—IT, Clinical Engineering, 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 25% 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

Try before you buy has helped many of our groups to grow. The NPAG Violence Reduction and Security Network is now more successful than it has ever been:

'Many thanks Dale, It was my first meeting yesterday and I found the day really engaging and provided opportunities for like-minded professionals to network'

Security & Risk Manager, Bolton NHS FT

I would like to thank you all for being so welcoming and helpful over the last 2 years since joining.

To all the try before you buys, I would urge you all to sign up, the wealth of knowledge within the group is unbelievable and they are willing to share their experiences and help you if they can."

Security Manager, UHDB

*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 continues to provide a very welcome service 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. People remain very keen to share their experiences for the benefit of all. These are some of the recent requests received during an exceptionally busy period.



“Do any other trusts have a policy around green spaces and examples of maps and communications materials they have used to publicise these spaces?”

NHS Sustainability Leads Member

“Are you able to ask members if they have any recommendations for UV scrubbers to supplement Air changes. I’m not a big fan of them but I need to buy/rent some to overcome a short-term problem.”

Estates Member

“Are any teams using wound care apps or have piloted any? If so, please could we have any feedback and information on the app that was chosen.”

NNDN Member

“Does the group have a closed wards standards operating procedure that they are happy to share please.”

Facilities South Member

“I am looking for a replacement for the Fresenius Crit Line 3. This monitor calculates the percent change in the dialysis patient's intravascular blood volume. Used in paediatric renal. Do any members know of a replacement device to monitor blood volume?”

Clinical Engineering North Member

“Does any other Trust have a Travel Centre on their site? We are looking into having a purpose-built Travel Centre at Colchester and was looking for inspiration ...”

NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Transport Member

“Does anyone have a Green Spaces Policy or other documents that they could share please.”

NPAG Facilitator

“I am looking for a company who undertake a deep dive/audit of NHS Porter Services to assist in the modernisation of our services within the Trust.”

Facilities South 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).

Arts, Heritage & Design in Healthcare 2021/22

In 2019 NPAG set up a new national Networking Group for NHS managers and professional leads involved in the leadership and delivery of Arts, Heritage and Design services across healthcare.

Our purpose is to share best practice, to find solutions and offer support to those working within this field of healthcare. We are also working to help raise the profile of the profession and, where appropriate, to improve and standardise approaches to working. We are very keen to support those just starting out.

For 2021–22 we are again planning three meetings—at this stage we intend to offer 2 x virtual meetings via MS Teams and one face-to-face at a central venue. But there are many activities between meetings. The report below gives a great flavour of the enthusiasm and commitment of our Members.

NPAG Arts at the European Healthcare Design Congress: June 2021

In June the NPAG Network for Arts, Heritage and Design collaborated with artist designers Art in Site to deliver a programme of events at the online **European Healthcare Design Congress** (<https://europeanhealthcaredesign.salus.global>) focusing on the integration of artwork in healthcare design.

The events spanned 4 days and featured 27 speakers presenting international case studies and workshops demonstrating the pivotal role of art initiatives in brokering **creative partnerships**, bringing together clinicians, arts managers, artists and architects and leading to successful integrated art projects.

A daily “Arts & Health Hour” shared major new case studies from NPAG Arts members profiling exemplary approaches to site responsive art. Presentations highlighted the role that art can play in creating an identity and narrative for a building, engaging users in the production of new work, and demonstrating the ways in which art can be fully integrated into the fabric of a building to create a healing environment.

The sessions explored a range of artist roles – from Lead Artist, working with the architects at early design stages to affecting the look and feel of an entire building (Esther Rolinson at Musgrove Park’s new Surgical Centre – see designs below left); to colour consultant, creating a palette of colour for wall protection, splashbacks and doors making a big impact for minimal cost (Jacqui Poncelet at the John Radcliffe Hospital’s ED). Other colleagues have worked with designers as a way of enhancing interiors. At Sheffield Children’s Hospital the digital arts studio Megaverse have created an interactive colourwall to engage young patients in the Safeguarding Support Unit. At St Mary’s Hospital, Paddington, Sable & Hawkes have developed a interior scheme inspired by the work of Joseph and Anni Albers, creating a warm and welcoming environment for the Children’s Intensive Care Unit.



A number of key themes emerged – such as the ability of artists to reflect the ethos of a building and those who work there. Mark Titchner’s impressive artwork ‘Together we can do so much’ (above) at the GOSH Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children, conveys the research centre’s collaborative ethos, and creates a clear identity for the building. On a smaller scale, Sarah Carpenter’s co-created work with nurses at South London and the Maudsley - a series of interlocking hands – eloquently reflects the “reciprocal” ideology of care; and Sheefali Asija’s work with nurses at Guy’s and St Thomas’ creates new ‘coats of arms’ to represent and celebrate different departments.

Arts, Heritage & Design in Healthcare 2021/22 *Cont.*

The role of artists in engaging directly with both staff and patients to enable dialogue and creativity was demonstrated in many of the case studies. Dryden Goodwin's portraits of staff, patients and carers at UCH's new Haematology Centre (below) reflects their interrelationships and is accompanied by mesmerising video of the artist drawing, shown in waiting areas. Art in Site's programme of art and design at Evelina Children's Hospital consulted with young people in the design process and utilised creative approaches – from day-glo paint to corian light walls - to encourage children to play, sleep or be calm. Both projects were award winners of the EHD Interior Design and the Arts Awards – Winner and Highly Commended respectively.



The programme concluded with a focus on the future hospital. A sensory workshop from Bristol University's Sensing Spaces of Healthcare Project, invited designers, patients, and planners to reimagine healthcare spaces in terms of their multi-sensory qualities. Two inspiring case studies from Sweden provided an insight into how to achieve the most ambitious art programmes in future. In Sweden a mandatory 1% of the building budget is added to the construction value, enabling artists to be part of the earliest design stages and extending the possibilities for integrated and thoughtful projects.

NPAG Arts will be campaigning to promote 1% for art in the UK as a means of enabling the most creative approaches to future healthcare buildings – further developing the inspiring work already taking place across the country.

Join Us for 2021 / 22

The NPAG Arts, Heritage and Design Network welcomes new Members. Why not join us on a try before you buy basis? **For more information please contact Laura Howe:**

E: laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Telecoms BVG 2021-22

Meeting 1 of 4: 14th September, London O2

The Telecoms BVG is a unique group which brings together NHS Telecoms professionals, industry experts and service providers. This instrumental group allows the members to come together to evaluate new technology, share best practice and influence service providers to secure best value solutions to telecommunication services across the NHS estate. The group offers peer to peer support to solve complex technical problems within member Trusts.

The group holds quarterly meetings, currently on the virtual platform MS Teams, but from September, the members have requested to meet face-2-face in Central London. Two or three service providers are invited by the members to 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 member needs and requirements. Key topics for 2021/22 will include:

- **Evaluating innovative, cost-effective solutions to replace current bleep and pager technology**
- **Continued transition / migration from analogue to VoIP telephony**
- **Development and integration of Unified Communications platforms**
- **Consultation with service providers to secure cost effective solutions and tariffs**

“The NPAG Telecoms Best Value Group gives unrivalled access to peers across healthcare who face the same daily challenges as we do at STH, utilising the same software and infrastructure—or voice technologies from which we can draw huge parallels. I can’t place a value on the experience, knowledge and now friendship that I have gained from the members, who instantly made me feel welcome on joining some 3 years ago.”

Head of Telecommunications, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Why join? Our Co-Chair says:

“Being a member of this unique group will enhance your knowledge base and simplify your life! This is the only National forum where NHS Telecoms professionals regularly meet, share knowledge and information and hear presentations from major service providers. Although we are all separate organisations, many of our issues are common and are therefore discussed amongst like minded members (like you) at our friendly meetings.

Don’t struggle along on your own, come and meet the group, I promise that membership will add value to your life.”

Simon Owen, Head of Telecoms, Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

Interested?

The first meeting in the 2021-22 round will take place on September 14th at the O2 in London, followed by a further two more face-2-face meetings and a meeting via MS Teams.

To become a member, please contact Marie Cherry:

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

Try before you buy places are available.



Waste Management BVG 2021-22 Meeting 1 of 4: 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 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

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 complimented 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. Try before you buy places are available.

Clinical Engineering Conference 2021

Tuesday 14th September, DoubleTree by Hilton Coventry

This year's theme is **'Making Connections'**, taking the opportunity after a long period to once again renew contacts, meet new colleagues and connect with the future of the Clinical Engineering profession. Topics have been suggested by members of the groups and reflect the desire to better understand clinical activity and how best to train a workforce fit for the future.



Both the North and South Clinical Engineering (CE) Best Value Groups are well established. Each year new trusts join NPAG with membership geographically well dispersed within the NHS. The conference has been continually developed and has now been established for over 15 years.

With ever increasing budget restrictions departments need to support and pro-actively improve efficiency and safety; hence striving to ensure best value. Trust Boards need consistent assurance that medical devices are being managed effectively and users trained appropriately. It is also vital that we are aware of technological advances and learn from each other's experiences.



Interested?

We have extended our NHS early bird delegate rate!

Book your place before the 31st August and attend for just £95! Contact us for booking details or book via the NPAG website, here: <https://www.npag.org.uk/clinical-engineering-conference-2021/>

E: Info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Sponsor a Best Value Group Meeting

In addition to our major NPAG events we also welcome sponsorship of our Best Value Group meetings throughout the year.

Many of our groups invite commercial providers to the NHS to present to their meetings. In return for sponsoring a meeting, companies are given direct access to senior members of high-profile NHS Trusts from across the country and can learn first-hand of the issues that they are having to confront on a daily basis. In many cases presenters will then be invited to attend and sponsor other related NPAG networks thus extending their reach across the healthcare system.

Recent topics and sponsors have covered a very wide variety of groups and subject areas including:

- **Clinical Engineering North & South, 'Maximising the Residual Value of Assets' by Mount International United Services**
- **Clinical Engineering North & South, 'Securing all medical devices from cyber-attack and a forensic insight into their utilisation and status' by Ordr**
- **Telcoms BVG, Abzorb**
- **Nursing & Temporary Staffing BVG, 'Bank Staff - simple, innovative and highly effective communication with BTS Atereo' by BTS Holdings Limited**
- **Telecoms BVG, Helping the NHS Remain Vendor & Technology Agnostic' by Abzorb**

Sponsorship packages are available for all 20 or so NPAG national groups. If you would like to know more about presenting and sponsoring a meeting please do get in touch.

E: info@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 or E: marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk.

What's hot for the coming months

National Networking Group Meetings

August

- Resilience Development Network
- NHS Sustainability Leads

September

- Decontamination
- Health Visiting and School Health Services
- IT & Connectivity
- Nursing and Temporary Staffing
- Operating Theatres
- Waste Management
- Telecoms
- NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport Network

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, Coventry

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: 12th April 2022, Coventry

Register your interest with:

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

Contact Us

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