

# NPAG News

April 2022 Edition 186

Welcome to the April edition of NPAG News and a new-look front page!

As spring struggles to make an appearance this year, at NPAG we are in the midst of one of our busiest periods, with best value groups renewing and some being re-launched with revised terms of reference and new names.

But perhaps the most exciting news is the return to face-to-face meetings and events. As our groups commence new meeting rounds, for the first time in two years we can confidently look forward to a resumption of a more normal way of operating.

Most groups will be pursuing a blend of virtual and face-to-face meetings. Some are implementing a 'hybrid' meeting style that allows those unable to join the physical meeting itself to join online.

In this edition we are promoting new meeting rounds of three groups. The NHS Transport and Logistics Network is commencing its new series this week. The Resilience Network is being re-launched as the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Network (EPRR). The Nursing and Temporary Staffing group starts its new round in June.

There is also much activity between meetings with the NPAG Network again very busy. Some groups have developed their own additional email exchange Q&A system and this month we also share some of those exchanges.

Clearly Covid has not gone away and we appreciate that many Members' Trusts are still grappling with the effects of the pandemic. So, while we are feeling very upbeat about the future, let's all remain vigilant.

Have a great April, and please stay safe everyone!

**The NPAG Team**

## Inside This Edition

NHS Transport & Logistic Best Practice Group 2022-23	2
A new name for Resilience—EPRR - Join us	3
Nursing and Temporary Staffing—new round starting	4
Keeping in touch between meetings—Email exchange	5
NPAG Network—supporting our Members	6
Theatres & Decontamination Conference 2022—Meet the Sponsors	7
What's hot for the coming months	9

*"Membership of the NPAG Nursing and Temporary staffing group has proven to be instrumental for our organisation in relation to decision making on both policy and process for temporary staffing. For me, membership provides clear and tangible benefits through the exchange of ideas and solution oriented strategies with colleagues from across the NHS"*

**Member of Nursing and Temporary Staffing BVG**

## NHS Transport & Logistics Best Practice Group 2022-23

The NHS Transport & Logistics Best Practice Group has just started a new round!

The 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.

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

- Covid implications & issues
- Fleet: Grey, Green & Courier
- Pool Car Management
- Trust Policies and Procedures: impact on Transport, Waste & ADR
- Medical Records
- Driver Handbooks
- Management of Taxi services
- Vehicle procurement & management
- Legislation

Members come from a variety of Trust types from across England and Wales. Members from NHS Wales have provided invaluable insight into how 'things' are done differently in the devolved nations, particularly over the last couple of years responding to Covid-19 and the vaccination programme. It would be good to have members join from the other devolved nations of Scotland and Northern Ireland to further widen the knowledge base.

The 2021 round of four meetings were held via Microsoft Teams due to the ongoing Covid restrictions and in order to attract a diverse range of members from across the Country. Guest speakers were invited from relevant Industry bodies including Highways England, Crown Commercial Services, Flockmobility and The Mileage Consultancy.

Such collaborations hold great potential for all involved sharing innovations across the whole spectrum of NHS Transport & 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.

The Group have agreed a further three meetings to be held in July, October and January 2023, one of which is hoped to be the first face to face meeting since pre-Covid.

*"Having been a member of this group for 6 years, it is clear that the group provides an excellent platform for those in Logistics and Fleet Management. The scope of the group embraces all aspects of Logistics, vehicle usage, parking and new ways of tackling issues. More importantly the NPAG networking facility has enabled colleagues to share problems and get advice. It is shaped by its members and their professions."*

**Operations Manager, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

### 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 for the last 2 rounds, 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. The first meeting of the 2022/23 round will take place via MS Teams on the 5th April 2022. Come along and see for yourself what a great resource this group can be to you and your organisation."*

### Interested?

The group will next meet on the 21st June via MS Teams. For further information please contact **Marie Cherry**.

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 details.

## EPRR Network 2022-23

### Meeting 1: 4th May 2022, The Royal National Hotel, London

**EPRR (Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response)** has always been an extremely important function in the NHS. As it becomes even more important (as evidenced during the COVID-19 outbreak for example) so, therefore, does the role of the EPRR Network. The EPRR Network is a very well-established group (previously known as the Resilience Development Network) and is a very well-respected forum which has been serving NHS EPRR staff for several years.

The following are some of the comments that members have had to say about this network:

*"Excellent forum for exchanging information on all emergency planning and resilience related issues"*

*"Really good value for money"*

*"Excellent for professional development"*

*"I strongly recommend others take advantage of the opportunities that NPAG presents. They will not be disappointed."*

Whilst there may be several local forums where EPRR staff come together, one of the major benefits of the EPRR Network is that it is a national group with members coming from across the country, thereby offering a greater range of sharing and learning. It also facilitates a more extensive range of benchmarking / comparisons between organisations.

- Covid 19 (including Public Enquiry)
- 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

As well as the above, and many other subjects, each meeting also has a 'Hot Topics' slot where members can raise ad hoc issues that are of immediate concern to them or that they need help and advice with. Outside of the meetings, members continue networking with each other via email and telephone communications facilitated by the NPAG Facilitator and the NPAG team.

The network receives external expert input at meetings from: Member of the Executive Council - The Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, NHS Digital, NHS England and Improvement, plus other expert speakers in the field of EPRR. All of this, is complimented by the significant and vast knowledge and expertise of the network members themselves.

### Who would benefit from joining?

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

### Interested?

Meeting 1 will take place on **Wednesday 4th May** in central London, followed by 3 further meetings. Please contact Laura Howe for further information 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 details.

## Nursing & Temporary Staffing Best Value Group 2022-23 Meeting 1: Thursday 23rd June, Birmingham

The NPAG Nursing and Temporary Staffing BVG is a well-established and respected group which has been running for several years and continues to go from strength to strength. The group enables NHS managers working in the bank / temporary staffing arena to come together in order to share knowledge, ideas, solve problems, discuss items of national interest, address resource related issues and to generally support each other in what can be a very challenging part of the NHS.

The group attracts members from acute, community, mental health and specialist trusts from across the country and also has representation from Northern Ireland.

*“Membership of the NPAG Nursing and Temporary staffing group has proven to be instrumental for our organisation in relation to decision making on both policy and process for temporary staffing. For me, membership provides clear and tangible benefits through the exchange of ideas and solution oriented strategies with colleagues from across the NHS - with the added value of a legal perspective provided by Shakespeare Martineau. I would highly recommend the group to others.” 2021-22 Member Testimonial*

The first meeting of the new round will take place on **Thursday 23rd June 2022** at **Shakespeare Martineau offices, Birmingham**. This will be followed by a further 3 more meeting dates, 2 of which will take place on a virtual platform. In addition to the meetings, members benefit from the networking that takes place between meetings, this includes the ‘Inter Meeting Emails Discussion’ facility whereby members can ask questions across the group and receive answers the same day – if not within the hour.

### As we move in to 2022-23 the group will continue to:

- Develop relationships with national agencies including: NHS England + Improvement, NHS Employers, NHS Counter Fraud Authority and the Department of Health and Social Care

- Act as a reference point / sounding board for these organisations supporting for example the DHSC Temporary Staffing Strategy Team
- Allow members to openly discuss concerns via the regular ‘Hot Topics’ agenda slot, work with commercial organisations that can bring education and innovation to the meetings, focusing on rostering, resource management and employment law – including with Shakespeare Martineau.

Specific topic areas will include:

- Bank Agreements & Staff Contracts
- Bank v Agency Staffing
- Appraisals & Induction
- On and off Frameworks
- Recruitment & Retention
- Agency Negotiations
- Employment Law & Policies
- Training and Education
- Job Descriptions
- Bank Admin Staffing & Structures
- Electronic Rostering
- Competencies

### Why join? Our Chair says:

*“It is obvious that there is a clear need for a group such as the NPAG Best Value Group for Nursing and Temporary Staffing and it is one that I am very keen to promote. This group will continue to help and support its members in rising to the ongoing challenges of working within this field and will help to ensure that services, particularly those associated with temporary staffing, are delivered to the highest standard in the most efficient and effective way.”*

### Interested?

For further information, please contact Marie Cherry: e: [marie.cherry@npag.eastab.nhs.uk](mailto:marie.cherry@npag.eastab.nhs.uk)

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

## Keeping in touch - Email Exchange service

The NPAG Network continues to provide a very welcome service to all NPAG Best Value Group and Network members.

All our NPAG groups operate within a framework that seeks to ensure a consistent, high quality service. But the guidelines allow for flexibility of operation, and some groups have developed their own Email Exchange Q&A service.

We thought it would be interesting to capture some of the recent, very varied traffic.

Here is a small selection from recent weeks:



*"I have been asked by my Trust to see if any one has looked at or installed a security tag option equipment we are looking at implementing scanning devices for the Blood Track system, every ward will have one of these devices and we want to have the capability to monitor and track them ( in case they wander off)"*

Violence Reduction and Security Management Network Member

*"We currently have an excess of brand new black and green dry waste bins in 660ltr and 1100ltr. Would any Trust be interested in these? They currently have tow bars and Veolia branding but these can be removed."*

Waste Management BVG Member

*"What levels of theatre managers at band 7 do theatre departments have plus roles and shifts over 7 days per week."*

*"At present I am being challenged in a business case to have more band 7s in the theatre suits 7 days a week to manage the acute site. The business case suggests I need 3.7 more then I have in my establishment. I'm being asked the question why."*

Operating Theatre Managers Member

*"I am trying to find out if anybody has used the Criminal Justice & Immigration Act Sections 119 & 120 to remove a patient who has full capacity and not requiring any further treatment from hospital when they continue to refuse to leave."*

Violence Reduction and Security Management Network Member

*"Just wanted to ask the group for those who have maternity services, what is their current bank rates, just need a comparison please."*

Nursing and Temporary Staffing BVG Member

*"Do other trusts have specific waste strategies or are any trust looking at creating one. I am looking to develop one for the RDE?"*

Waste Management BVG Member

For details of these national groups or to come along as a try-before-you-buy guest please contact:

e: [info@npag.eatamb.nhs.uk](mailto:info@npag.eatamb.nhs.uk)

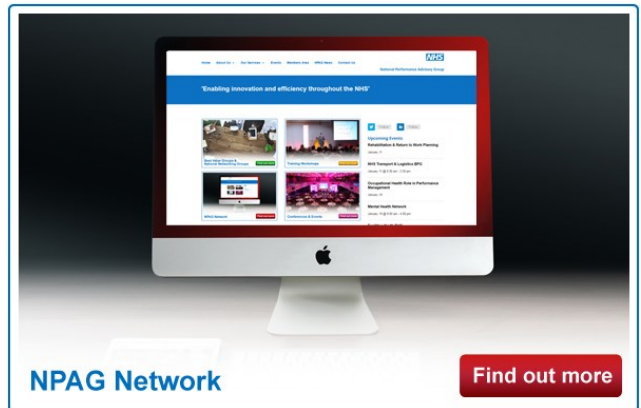


## Helping our Members - NPAG Network

The NPAG Network is available to all NPAG Members and continues to provide a very welcome service.

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 varied requests received in recent days:

*“Does anyone have a JD that they could share please for an accommodation officer who books on site/off site accommodation for staff whether this is with through hotels, Estate Agents etc.?”*

Facilities South Member

*“Our Trust is keen to implement staff parking charges as of 1st April 2022. There is a paper going in next week relating to this. Can other Trusts share when they expect staff charges to return as soon as possible please?”*

NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Transport Network Member

*“Please can you ask our members what CPAP units they have in service within their NNU departments and to include who supplies / maintains them?”*

Clinical Engineering South Member

*“Has anyone carried out any environmental risk assessments for their Trusts? If they have, would they be willing to share them with me?”*

NHS Sustainability Leads Network Member

*“If you could be so kind to put out an official NPAG request to the members please, asking if anyone would be happy to share any available business cases related to creating an IT connectivity role within Medical Engineering. Also, if they have any Job descriptions and person specifications would be much appreciated.”*

Clinical Engineering North Member

*“We have 4 lines at a Community Hospital that are currently used as main lines for our maternity and pathology services which we do not have a contract for. We have been subsequently chasing to find out who pays for the lines and with which provider so these can be moved over to our management. We have still not been able to locate those lines although we have located the Main billing number which is 01376551865. We have ascertained it is an ISDN30 on the BT Network, currently via a BT Wholesale communications provider. Unfortunately, we need to know the exact supplier and who pays for the lines to progress porting, which is where we are becoming stuck. Is anyone able to identify the main billing number or know of a way that we can get hold of this information?”*

Telecoms 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).



National Performance  
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## Theatres and Decontamination Conference

19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Coventry Building Society Arena

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## Theatres & Decontamination Conference Thursday 19th May, Coventry Building Society Arena



Our one day conference is back for 2022! Providing new insights into issues that are being talked about in real-time, today. The conference agenda has been developed by Theatre Managers and Decontamination Leads. This one day conference is open to all NHS and non-NHS, Theatres, Clinical, Surgical and Decontamination Managers/ Leads.

### Agenda items include:

- **Creating a Black Box Culture within Healthcare**, Damian Cottle, Managing Director of Pegasus RM & Commercial Training Pilot
- **Human Factors—Training as a proactive defence against error**, Chris Gale, Training Academy Manager, Avensys
- **An Examination of the Sterile Services Cleaning Processes for Surgical Instruments**, Matthew Peskett, Managing Director, Peskett Solutions LTD
- **Covid -19 Experiences & Learning**, Mark Rigby, Head of Theatre Services, Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS FT



**Interested?** Delegate places are available, please contact [info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk) for details.

## What's hot for the coming months

### National Networking Group Meetings

#### April

- Facilities North
- IT & Connectivity
- National District Nurses Network
- NHS Sustainability Leads
- Violence Reduction & Security Management
- NHS Transport & Logistics

#### May

- Decontamination (Joint Conference)
- EPRR
- Facilities (South)
- Estates
- Operating Theatres (Joint Conference)

### Workshops & Events

**Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses**

**Human Factor Onsite Training**

**Introduction to Resilience in the NHS, Onsite Training Workshop**

**Equality and Diversity Onsite Training Workshops**

**Assertiveness & Self-Management Training Workshops**

For details of the above please contact [Marie Cherry](#)

**Putting the Patient First Onsite Training Workshops**

Register your interest with: [Laura Howe](#).

### Conference Dates

**Theatres and Decontamination Conference: 19th May 2022, Coventry**

Register your interest with: [Marie Cherry](#).

**Clinical Engineering Conference: 15th September 2022, Coventry**

Register your interest with: [Marie Cherry](#).

**NDNN Conference 22nd November 2022**

Register your interest with: [Laura Howe](#).

## Contact Us

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