

# NPAG News

June 2022 Edition 188

Welcome to the June edition of NPAG News.

As we move into the summer months, we all look forward to better weather, to accompany our continued return to face-to-face NPAG meetings and events.

NPAG's spring programme was especially busy this year. The Theatres and Decontamination Conference 2022 was held during May and was perhaps the highlight of our spring season, attracting record numbers of delegates and sponsors.

June this year is, of course, a very special month for the country. By the time you read this newsletter we will have just celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We congratulate Queen Elizabeth on her long and dedicated service to our country.

And to coincide with these celebrations and to recognise the success of our national groups, NPAG are launching a new offer for our Members that will run alongside the 50% off promotion announced last month—see page 2 for all the details of the additional new offer.

If you have responsibility for a number of different areas, why not consider joining a second NPAG group and / or encourage a colleague to try the NPAG experience.

Once again in this edition we bring you some examples of our busy networks that operate between meetings year-round—the NPAG Network and the email discussion groups. See pages 6 and 7.

We are pleased to announce that this month's edition is sponsored by [Rio](#), an intelligent sustainability software platform that helps you improve your impact on the planet.

Have a great Jubilee month, and please stay safe everyone!

**The NPAG Team**

## Inside This Edition

NPAG Summer Specials	2
This Month NPAG News is sponsored by: Rio ESG	3
NHS Sustainability Leads Network 2022—23	4
Operating Theatre Managers BVG 2022—23	5
Keeping in touch between meetings—Email exchange	6
NPAG Network—	7
What's hot for the coming months	8

**Theatres & Decontamination Conference 2022, delegate feedback and pictures:**

*"Overall great experience for my first time at the conference, details beforehand were great and we were kept well informed. A lot of companies to chat to and learn from and all presentations were great. Fab choice of food & refreshments too!"*

Training & Development Coordinator,  
NHS - SSDU



## Summer Special for NPAG Members

### 50% off Membership When Joining a 2nd Group

Last month we announced a special summer promotion.

With a wide portfolio of groups it is unsurprising that a number of them have strong links. Recently we have noticed a number of our members have elected to join more than one of our groups. We currently offer all first members a 25% membership discount if they join another group, however this summer we are offering a fantastic opportunity for all first members to join an additional group and receive a 50% discount\*. In most cases this results in a membership fee reduction of over £200! Our groups include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ★ Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare    | ★ National District Nurses                   |
| ★ Clinical Engineering (North)               | ★ NHS Car Parking and Travel Planning        |
| ★ Clinical Engineering (South)               | ★ NHS Sustainability Leads                   |
| ★ EPRR                                       | ★ NHS Transport & Logistics                  |
| ★ Estates                                    | ★ Nursing & Temporary Staffing               |
| ★ Decontamination                            | ★ Operating Theatres                         |
| ★ Facilities (North)                         | ★ Telecoms                                   |
| ★ Facilities (South)                         | ★ Violence Reduction and Security Management |
| ★ Health Visiting and School Health Services | ★ Waste Management                           |
| ★ IT and Connectivity                        |  |

**\*This month we are pleased to announce a new offer to run alongside the summer promotion outlined above. Existing NPAG Members can now pass on a 25% discount off any group membership to a colleague in their Trust**



*"I have been a member of the Facilities North Group for a few years now and find this group really beneficial. Facilities teams throughout the health sector are all subject to some degree to the same issues and it can be really useful to talk these through either at the meetings or by asking for help via the forum. The networking side is also excellent and I have made many friends, it is always handy to have a number of a colleague to call if you want to talk something through or ask for recommendations. I will definitely be renewing my subscription for another year especially as the pressures on the sector continue to intensify and the Facilities BVG being a network which can provide much needed support."*

2021 Facilities North BVG Member, Head of Domestic Services, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**Interested?** Please contact us for further details. e: [info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)  
Try before you buy places are available on all of our groups, contact us to book your place.



\* A 50% discount is applied when an existing NPAG group member joins an additional NPAG group. This only applies to the higher membership rate for the first member from an organisation.

\* This offer is valid from the 1st May 2022 to the 30th June 2022. After this date the discount will return to 25%.

**This Month NPAG News is sponsored by:  
Rio ESG**

## HEALTHCARE WASTE TRAINING



The correct management of healthcare waste is essential to ensure that it does not pose a risk of infection, and to reduce waste costs.

Gain the confidence to manage healthcare waste in a safe and compliant manner with Rio's RCN accredited & IEMA recognised eLearning course. This healthcare waste course is a popular choice for those looking for a quick and affordable way to train their staff. It helps learners clearly understand how they should be handling, segregating, and storing different healthcare wastes. The 40-minute course can be tailored to be relevant to your trust if required.

Please contact [nick.garrod@rio.ai](mailto:nick.garrod@rio.ai) for further information.  
[www.rio.ai](http://www.rio.ai)



If you are a provider to the NHS and would like to see your product or service featured here in our monthly e newsletter, NPAG News, then please contact: e: [info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk)

## NHS Sustainability Leads Network 2022-23

### Meeting 1: Thursday 21st July 2022 - Virtual, via MS Teams

The health and care system in England is responsible for an estimated 4% of the country's carbon footprint. The NHS has therefore committed to reaching *Net Zero* as soon as possible, requiring the support of all 1.3 million NHS employees. It is a huge challenge.

#### Why NPAG?

The NPAG NHS Sustainability Leads Network is a national group of managers from major NHS Trusts across the country. We are committed to making a difference.

*"So pleased to be back in 2021! Thanks for your ongoing support and inspiration."*

Group Member 2019—20 who re-joined for 2021-22

We are celebrating our tenth anniversary having been established in 2012. Since then, we have grown significantly in membership and in influence, with ongoing contact with central bodies such as NHS England / NHS Improvement and The Greener NHS Team. The group have agreed to run four meetings again in 2022 / 23 with the first taking place via MS Teams on the **21st July 2022**, followed by two further virtual meetings, and, plans for a final face-to-face session in central London in early 2023. Members freely share policies, procedures and different approaches, as well as asking for advice on things they are struggling with - all aimed at increasing knowledge, saving time and improving effectiveness.

#### What are the current challenges?

The breadth of this subject can be overwhelming, even for experienced professionals. How can we ensure we achieve senior management buy-in and staff and public engagement? How are you delivering your Green Plan? Are you fully engaged with your ICS leads? How do we continue to address daily challenges, whilst planning longer-term approaches such as adaptation to Climate Change and, of course, planning for a Net Zero NHS?

#### We have already identified some key themes for the next round in addition to Net Zero NHS:

- Continue to work with The Greener NHS Team, and NHSE / NHSI more widely as a focus group, providing feedback on the implementation of a range of tools and guidance notes and offering them an 'open door' to our quarterly meetings
- Place a strong focus on Climate Emergency planning - how can we take the lead?

#### Why join? Our Chair says:

*"The NPAG Sustainability Leads Group is extremely well positioned to support sustainability professionals working in the healthcare sector. Members contribute to and drive the agenda, and discussion is lively and varied. Receiving regular updates and early sight of national opportunities and strategic direction leaves members feeling like the quarterly meetings are a worthwhile commitment and they leave with renewed energy, ideas, and the support of a group of peers in an often-challenging area, particularly important as we are now trying to deliver a Net Zero NHS."*

#### Interested?

Meeting one will take place on **21st July** via **Microsoft Teams**, followed by three further meetings.

**Try Before You Places are available.**

For more information please contact Laura Howe:

e: [laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk) or visit our website: [www.npag.org.uk](http://www.npag.org.uk)



## Operating Theatre Managers BVG 2022-23

### Meeting 1: Wednesday 3rd August 2022, central London

The Operating Theatre Managers BVG is a well-established and respected group. Membership continues to grow year on year. With the increasing pressures on this hugely important part of the NHS, the role of this group has become ever more important.

One of the major benefits of joining the Operating Theatres BVG is that it is a national group. NHS managers meet and share new ideas, evaluate products, discuss common problems, and provide cost effective solutions. Members are leaders in their field with extensive knowledge, experience, and drive; always pursuing the highest standards and find the meetings informative, informal, open, and transparent. Members have identified standing agenda item topics that they aim to cover at each meeting. These items include:

- **Corrective actions arising from audits**
- **WHO Checklists**
- **Governance**
- **Theatre Efficiencies**
- **CIPs**
- **Audits**
- **Job Descriptions**
- **Safer Surgery / Patient Safety**
- **Theatre Staffing – Skill Mix, Training, etc.**
- **Benchmarking**
- **Never Events**
- **Procurement**

In addition to the above, 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. This slot has been particularly beneficial during the COVID -19 period with members gaining great support in challenging times. We also include 'Sharing Good Practice' and 'External/Commercial Presentation' slots on each agenda.

***"NPAG for theatre managers has enabled me to build a professional network, to ask clinical questions to peers who are experiencing and encountering the same operational issues. NPAG has also helped me to undertake some qualitative research for my PhD in the form of focus groups."***

**2021-22 Member, Lead Theatre Manager, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS FT**

#### Why join? Our Chair says:

***"This group is vital for all Theatre Managers and Theatre Leads. The benchmarking element gives the members a strong sense of awareness of how other theatre departments are performing. CIP programmes are continually shared in meetings, contributing to a big difference to an organisations financial stability. The governance aspect is amazing, we are dedicated to sharing never event incidents and audit types to keep theatres safe. We have members who work with the CQC and add great feedback and value to the group. With the NHS financial challenges we face over the coming year, we will essentially be concentrating on staffing cost and financial cost reductions, plus continue to examine all of the above."***

**Head of Theatre Services, Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS FT**

The members have agreed to a further 4 meeting dates across 2022-23 with the first taking place in **London** on **Wednesday 3rd August**. One of these meeting dates will be held on MS Teams and one will be attendance at the annual **NPAG Theatres and Decontamination Conference**, May 2023, Coventry.

#### Interested?

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, 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, which sits alongside the NPAG Network, covered elsewhere.

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

Here is a small selection from recent weeks:

*"Could anyone provide any further advice on the following;*

*In a recent ED violence group meeting it was asked if anymore could be done to protect staff on ED reception, as we've seen a real increase in aggressive behaviour, especially verbal abuse towards staff. We have CCTV in the waiting area which is monitored by security and we have toughened glass which was installed during COVID. At times reception staff may be accompanied by a nurse who is wearing a body cam but this is not always the case. We also have a police presence, normally on a Friday and Saturday night. Is there anything else that the group could suggest?"*

Violence Reduction and Security Management Network Member

*"Our organisation is looking to install charging systems for mobile phones in our Emergency department and I wonder if any other organisations had any experience either good or bad of anything similar?"*

Violence Reduction and Security Management Network Member

*"We are unable to source our Trendelenburg Da Vinci shoulder support cushion from medi-plac due to UK now not in EU and not agreeing to mutual agreement with EU and so MDR is not valid in UK. Do any of you have a similar product that works for bariatric patients head down in major lap surgery?, we are wanting dimensions of B50cm x T30 x H20cm ideally. "*

Operating Theatres Manager BVG Member

*"Can anyone provide examples of best practice when installing Controlled Drugs cabinets in open areas? We have recently purchased a multi-point locking CD cabinet for an open area, although due to the weight of this, it will require floor mounting rather than wall.*

*These style of cabinets appear to be mainly used to store bulk items (e.g. methadone) in community and are fitted to the floor; not really used in ward areas in hospitals.*

*Does anyone have examples where they have used single locking CD cabinets in non-24 hours area or open areas, or even maybe used a normal CD cabinet, but within a locked room so this may count as 'multi-locking'?"*

Violence Reduction and Security Management Network Member

*"Can I ask whether you have stopped any payment for bank workers if they are unable to work due to covid. There is a national steer that we now go back to business as usual and stop any payments for people if they are unable to work. Are you able to share what processes you are using now please."*

Nursing & Temporary Staffing BVG Member



## Helping our Members - NPAG Network

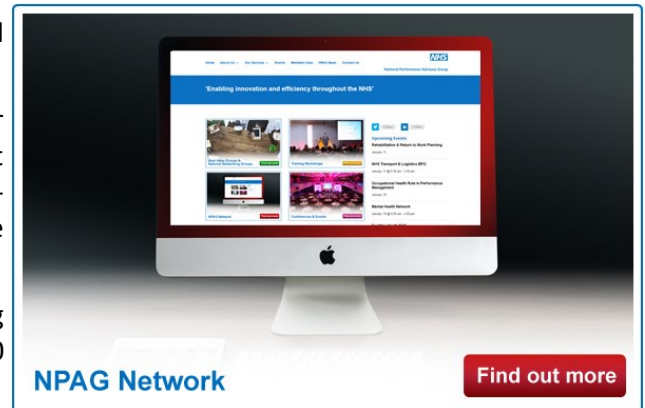
The NPAG Network is available to all NPAG Members and continues to provide a very welcome service.

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 the past month:



***“Can members please advise on what methods they have for removal of debris etc from B-Polar / Diathermy Forceps and also Exeter Rasps?”***

Decontamination Network Member

***“Could members please advise if they have a process in place for medical device password protection management that they could share? For example;***

- Do you use a specific nomenclature for passwords***
- How do you register these in your database or elsewhere***
- Do you keep a separate register of these for make/model***
- How do you manage “fixed” passwords in devices to stop unauthorised access by staff - or do you communicate these out to specific staff or teams?”***

Clinical Engineering North Member

***“Would everyone please share recent EV Charging Policies. Thank you.”***

NHS Sustainability Leads Network Member

***“Our ED Department at Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals are looking to implement a system to enable key staff to communicate with one another more efficiently. They have been looking at Vocera, Zello and Ascom, as well as a few other solutions. Ideally they are looking for some kind of push/tap to talk using a device that is light and portable. Is anyone else using any kind of system to help improve efficiency in communication, particularly in ED? If so, could you let me have some details please! ”***

Telecoms 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).

## New! - Clinical Engineering Conference 2022

**NPAG's 2022 Clinical Engineering Conference will be held on Thursday 15th September at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Coventry**

This will be a productive and valuable day for all involved within Clinical Engineering and Medical Equipment Support.

The conference agenda is coordinated by Paul Blackett who facilitates both the NPAG Clinical Engineering North and South Best Value Group's. Members from both groups have not only requested this conference from us but are also supporting the agenda and the content. In addition to our members, we will be targeting managers from across the NHS and private sector specialising in Clinical Engineering roles. The agenda will be available in the coming weeks.

The exhibition will run alongside the conference with plenty of networking time scheduled. **Sponsorship Packages available Now!**

To register your interest, please contact 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 and Design
- Clinical Engineering—North and South
- NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Transport
- Nursing & Temporary Staffing
- Waste Management

#### July

- EPRR Network
- IT & Connectivity
- NHS Sustainability Leads
- 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**

**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)

**Putting the Patient First Onsite Training Workshops**

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

### Conference Dates

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

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

**NDNN Conference 22nd November 2022**

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

## Contact Us

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