

NPAG News

February 2023 Edition 196



Welcome to NPAG News for February.

Where did January go? At NPAG it has been a very busy start to 2023. We are planning new Conference events, investigating possible new national groups, and recruiting, finally, to a key support post in the NPAG office that has been vacant for a long time.

It has also been an important month for the NHS more widely, of course, as we have seen an improvement in emergency response and, as part of their new plan for improving urgent and emergency care, the Government has set goals that by March 2024 it would make sure 76 per cent of A&E patients will be dealt with in four hours.

Here at NPAG we are looking forward to serving you all throughout 2023 with our great blend of products and services including our national groups, workshops and larger events.

As spring is just around the corner we again look forward to more face-to-face meetings, with some groups only just returning to traditional meetings for the first time since before the pandemic!

Our special Christmas and New Year offer, originally launched in the December edition, is extended to Valentine's Day!

- ◆ A 25% discount will be applied to first members who recruit a new member to **any** of our national groups.
- ◆ This offer is valid until the 14th February 2023 and multiple referrals will result in multiple discounts, with up to 4 referrals *per meeting round*. (see page 4 for conditions).

Please do continue to let us have your thoughts about our meetings and events services and your ideas for any new products or services that you would find helpful in your daily roles.

Take care everyone, and very best wishes from all of us.

The NPAG Team

Inside This Edition

Health Visiting and School Health Services Network—new round	2
Clinical Engineering Groups—2023	3
Christmas Special for NPAG Members—Extended to Valentine's Day!	4
Theatres & Decontamination Conference 2023—Sponsorship Packages	5
IT & Connectivity Network New round and NDNN Conference Sponsors	6
Clinical Professional Development For Occupational Health Nurses 2023	7
NPAG Network—Supporting our Members	8
Email Exchange Service—Keeping you in touch	9
What's hot for the coming months	10

*"As chair of the NPAG Decontamination BVG I find every meeting brings opportunities enlightenment a plenty!
We are so fortunate to have the excellent central structure from NPAG and the services of a dedicated Facilitator for the group"*

NPAG Decontamination group Chair



Health Visiting & School Health Services Network 2023

Meeting 1: Thursday 16th February 2023, MS Teams

We are a national networking group of NHS Managers and Professional Leads involved in the leadership and delivery of healthcare services across the 0-19 age group. We have been meeting since 2009, attracting members from across the country.

This year we are relaunching the group after a short break caused by the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on our membership. We again plan to meet four times a year, with a mix of virtual and face-to-face meetings in London / the Midlands. Our first meeting will be virtual via MS Teams. Membership offers CPD points.

What have we been doing?

Provided great benefit to our membership - partly through organising excellent speakers from, among others:

- ♦ **Leads within Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England / Improvement - both very active supporters of our group**
- ♦ **Our own members' Trusts on a range of innovative projects such as Home Conditions Assessment by Regender Athi and Randeep Kaur, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals, Surrey 0 – 19 Advice Line by Jayne White and Anita Lamb and 'Living Your Best Life' by Tatenda Chigodora, E. London**
- ♦ **Other Trusts and organisations working on innovative projects across the country and regular updates from professional bodies active in the field, such as SAPHNA, iHV and CPHVA.**

Time to think, discuss and plan

But perhaps the most important feature of the meetings is the Members' Exchange, where anything can be brought to the table for discussion in a completely confidential environment.

Members all value the opportunity to learn about and reflect on the many different approaches to management, service delivery and the significant changes and challenges facing services to children, young people and families. We believe strongly in sharing and not reinventing the wheel, so policies and processes, innovations, ideas and good practice are freely shared. Between meetings we make use of the vibrant NPAG Network.

"Meeting up with colleagues across the UK allows a rich exchange of information & experience sharing."

2019-20 Network Member

Why join? Our Chair said:

"Being part of the HV and SHN network provides the opportunity to network with other professionals nationally that lead our HV and SHN vital services to support children, young people and families. The group enables opportunities to share from one another and support shaping service delivery fit for the future. The national leaders and speakers are invaluable and enable raising issues to support discussions for solution focused decision making."

Interested?

Why not come and see for yourself and you can **Try Before You Buy!** The first meeting in this round will take place via Microsoft Teams on **16th February 2023**.

Please contact Laura Howe for further details: e: laura.howe@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk



Clinical Engineering Best Value Group 2023

Northern Group: Meeting 1, 14th March, MS Teams

Southern Group: Meeting 2, 7th March, London

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 (two of these are on Teams for the North group) and attendance at the annual NPAG Clinical Engineering Conference, which will take place on 12th September 2023 in Coventry.

“NPAG’s ongoing production and establishment of credible benchmarking data is invaluable towards the development of my Clinical Engineering department and function.” 2021 Member, Medical Engineering Services Manager, The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

Key Agenda Items for 2023

- Benchmarking of Trust, budget and staffing
- How to meet your KPIs!
- Training Best Practice and opportunities
- Updates on new equipment and future trends
- Open forum of cost savings and other initiatives
- Areas of good practice/problems
- Sharing of Job Descriptions
- The ideal Medical Devices Policy
- NPAG Network Questions
- Equipment—Lost and Found!

Current Challenges Identified

- Grey areas for equipment
- Budget Pressures— Ideas to get ahead
- How High is HIGH Risk equipment?
- Management of Data
- Is it sustainable?
- Review of KPIs

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 equipment or service 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 at: www.gmdnagency.org.

GMDN is a system of internationally agreed terms used to identify medical devices.

Interested?

Please contact Marie for further details:
e: marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Try Before You Buy places are available, please contact Marie for information.



Christmas and New Year Special for NPAG Members Extended Members Referral Offer to Valentine's Day!

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 recruit a new Trust to their group, however we are offering a fantastic Christmas special for all first members to recruit a new



member from within their own trust to any of our groups and receive a 25% discount of their membership*! Simply share our list below of networking and

best value groups with your colleagues and if anyone books on, you will receive a discount.

Our groups include:

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

"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

The more new members that you refer, the lower your membership fee, for example based on 4 meetings in a round:

- Refer one new member - 25% on membership
- Refer two new members - 50% on membership
- Refer three new members - 75% on membership
- Refer four new members - 100% on membership

- * A 25% discount will be applied to first members who recruit a new member to any of our best value or networking groups.
- * This offer is now valid until 14 February 2023. After this date the discount will return to 25%.
- * Multiple referrals will result in multiple discounts, with up to *4 referrals per meeting round.

Interested?

Please contact us for further details:

e: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

w: [Best Value Groups & National Networking Groups | NPAG](#)

Try before you buy places are available on all of our groups, contact us to book your place.



Theatres and Decontamination Conference

18th May 2023

Coventry Building Society Arena

Sponsorship Packages 2023

NPAG is proud to announce the date for the next NPAG Theatres and Decontamination Conference which will take place on Thursday 18th May at the Coventry Building Society Arena.

We first delivered this conference in March 2016. Since then, this event has grown in strength and size and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back again in May.

Delegate registration and agenda details will be released shortly. Please register your interest by sending us an email to ensure you receive early bird booking details: e: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk.

Sponsorship packages are now available to book and we are pleased to share that all sponsorship packages have been frozen at 2022 rates.

Please contact Marie Cherry for full details on all of our packages:
e: marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

2022 Conference Photographs





IT and Connectivity Network 2023

Meeting 1 of 4: Thursday 2nd March 2023 - virtual, via MS Teams

Do you work in IT, Medical Engineering or Digital Services? Are you looking to broaden your IT and medical engineering knowledge, maybe share your digital services learning, or to network with a wide group of professional peers?

If you answered yes to any, or all of those questions the following may be of real interest to you.

The last two years have been especially challenging for the NHS, but that has not reduced the strength and commitment of the NPAG IT and Connectivity Group.

At the start of the last series of meetings, we continued to meet virtually, but in July we held our first face to face meeting for almost three years in central London.

For the coming series we are planning a mix of face to face and virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams. The traditional meetings will again be held in central London. These are just a few things on the Agenda for next year:

'Greening IT' in pursuit of a Net Zero National Health Service

Raising the IT literacy profile

Engaging People in IT developments and Supporting them through change

The Internet of Things (IOT) and Cyber Security / Cyber Essential

The Standards that Apply to IT in healthcare

Exploring 'themed' meetings where we can explore key topics in greater depth with invited expert guests

Interested?

Try Before You Buy places are available. Please contact Laura Howe for further details.

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

Meet our NDN Conference Sponsor:

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Clinical Professional Development For Occupational Health Nurses 2023

A series of 9 practical training modules

- 1-day modules to take place in Coventry, spring
- Online modules to take place over two ½ days, spring – summer

Occupational Health Nurses are leaders in public health in the workplace setting. Their role is pivotal and it is, therefore, imperative that their training provides them with the necessary knowledge and competencies.

NPAG's Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses training module programme is specifically aimed at nurses who are new to Occupational Health. 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.

This 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.

"Excellent course. Informative. Opportunity for discussion & sharing experiences." Fitness For Work, Physiotherapy Lead Staff, Health & Wellbeing, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board

"Invaluable course - will prepare me for my future career in Occupational Health." Skin & Respiratory Surveillance History Taking & Case Management, Registered Staff Nurse, University Hospitals Bristol NHS FT

This year we have introduced 3 new modules to our collection. Each module will take place in person and virtually. Virtual workshops will be split over x2 half days and in person workshops will be a full day.

Click on the module titles below for details:

- ⇒ [COSHH Health Surveillance](#)
- ⇒ [Long-Term Condition, Health & Disability Management](#)
- ⇒ [Fitness for Work](#)
- ⇒ [Performance & Attendance](#)
- ⇒ [Employment & Pre-Placement Health Assessment](#)
- ⇒ [Occupational Health Risk Assessment](#)
- ⇒ [Noise and Vibration Health Surveillance & Case Management](#)
- ⇒ [Human Factors in OH, Ergonomic Assessment & Adjustments](#)
- ⇒ [Occupational Health Risk Assessment](#)

It is our recommendation that Occupational Health Nurses with 2 years or less experience should attend.

Applicants are encouraged to attend as many or as few workshops as they feel necessary.

Delegate fees include full workshop material (electronically), a buffet and refreshments and CPD certificate.

Interested?

Please contact Marie Cherry for details. Dates can be found on our website below:

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

w: [Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses | NPAG](#)



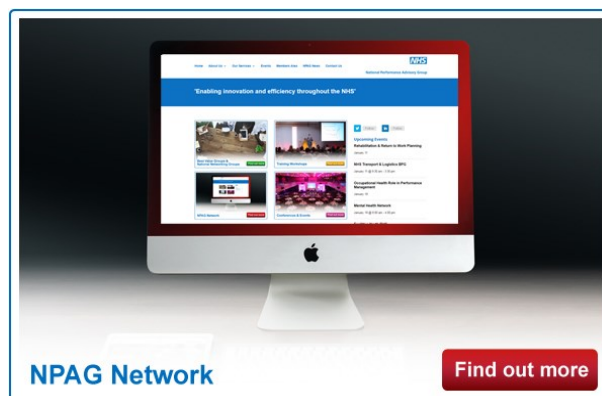
NPAGNetwork

Supporting our Members

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

NPAG developed the service, 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 reinventing 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.



Here are some recent Network questions:

“1. What, if any, Policies and procedures do Trusts have in place for Call Recording?”

2. What, if any, Policies and Procedures do Trusts have in place for International Calls? ”

Telecoms BVG Member

“The hospital are looking at using single use PCA pumps to deliver pain medication to patients in A&E. Do any other hospitals use these devices in the current climate? If so, please can you forward me any supporting documentation that your hospital produced to support their use, including any competency documents for clinical staff?”

Clinical Engineering North Member

“Could you please request some information from the members if possible? I am looking for a JD for Switchboard and Reception Manager role with banding. ? ”

Facilities South Member

“I have a question for those of us who maintain Getinge/Maquet Servo-U ventilators in-house. The manufacturer recommends replacing the batteries every 30 months. Would like to hear if anyone deviates from that rule i.e. the replacement frequency is more than 2.5 years. If you could share your experience, would be great”

Clinical Engineering 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 and members must have permission to share documentation with NPAG.



Keeping in touch - Email Exchange service

All our NPAG groups operate within a framework that seeks to ensure a consistent, high quality service.

The guidelines do 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.

This also allows for questions to be put to the group Members from NHS England and Improvement contacts, etc.

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:



“For Trusts that are using reusable sharps systems, particularly SharpSmart, what is your experience of the system and the supplier? How do the cost and carbon emissions compare, in your experience, with single use containers? Have you carried out any compliance visits to look at the site(s) which process the containers and their contents? What was the standard of compliance?” NHS Sustainability Leads Network Member

“I need some examples of agreements with freelancers for art projects. Many thanks in advance.” Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare Network Member

“At the meeting in London the other week, we touched on privacy concerns with device tracking, however I can’t remember who mentioned this. Can anyone provide further details, as I’d quite like to look into the background to these concerns.” IT & Connectivity Network Member

“Does anyone else use anyone other than NHS Supply Chain’s framework agreements to raise maintenance contracts with 3rd party suppliers?” Clinical Engineering Member

“Our linen & laundry provider has just advised of a 15% uplift to the contract cost due to cost pressures on their operations. Can members share whether their Trust has received similar increases and how they are dealing with it.” Facilities Member

“Relating to single-use plastics, and cutlery in particular, in relation to the ban from October? Our Trust rolled out sustainable alternatives to plastic containers and cutlery a while ago, but we have been asked by our SALT team to maintain a supply of plastic spoons for patients with dysphagia and their swallow-testing processes. I’m now struggling to find a something suitable from a texture and strength perspective that will still be readily available from October when the ban is due to take effect – and I’m drawing a blank!” Waste Management Member

“What Baby Tagging System do people use at their Organisations? And do they find the system to be robust and cost effective?” Violence Reduction & Security Management Member

“How do you upload any images or videos taken during laparoscopic/endoscopic procedures to patient records? Do you have the facility to upload them in a digital format to patient records direct from the recording device in theatre or do you just print off and file in their notes ?’ – if you upload to EPR digitally, how and what do you use to achieve this please?” Operating Theatre Managers Member



Working in partnership with NPAG

NPAG has established many important partnerships over the years. We work closely with a number of excellent training providers and business associates.

NPAG is currently looking to recruit either one or two associates with experience of in the following areas, or an interest in,

- **Health Visiting and School Health Services**
- **Energy**

If this is of interest to you, please contact us:

e: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

What's hot for the coming months

National Networking Group Meetings

February

- Arts, Heritage and Design
- EPRR
- Estates
- Health Visiting and School Health Services
- Operating Theatre Managers

March

- Clinical Engineering North and South
- Decontamination
- IT and Connectivity
- NDNN
- NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Transport
- Nursing and Temporary Staffing
- Telecoms
- Waste Management
- Facilities North

Workshops & Events

Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses

Please contact [Marie Cherry](#).

Human Factor Onsite Training

Introduction to Resilience in the NHS, Onsite Training Workshop

Equality and Diversity Onsite Training Workshops

Assertiveness & Self-Management Training Workshops

Please contact [Marie Cherry](#).

Putting the Patient First Onsite Training Workshops

Please contact: [Laura Howe](#).

Sponsors! 2023 Conferences:

Please register your interest to sponsor the following conference:

- **Theatres and Decontamination Conference, Thursday 18th May 2023, Coventry Building Society Arena**
- **Clinical Engineering Conference, Tuesday 12th September 2023, Midlands**
- **National District Nurses Conference, Tuesday 28th November 2023, Midlands**

Please email your interest to sponsor the relevant conference above, and your details will be recorded. You will be contacted with booking details shortly. Please email: e: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Contact Us

e: npagnews@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

w: npag.org.uk

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