

NPAG News

March 2023 Edition 197

Welcome to NPAG News for March.

We are stepping into the spring months now, a time of new growth and (we hope!) warmer, brighter days. Spring is an especially busy time at NPAG and, this year, an exciting one too, as we welcome a new member into our support team. More information in our next Edition!

At NPAG we are always keen to explore new ways in which we can support our Members. At the moment we are investigating the possibility of launching a new national group in 2023. You have told us that the following areas could be of interest and we would welcome further comments - please email us [here](#) to let us know your views or to suggest other areas that we might look into:

- ◆ Compliance
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ Learning and Development
- ◆ Midwifery

Some of our existing groups are renewing at the moment and you can find all the details inside.

Although our Christmas and New Year special promotion has now come to an end, there are still plenty of incentives if you join or re-join one of our national networks:

- ◆ 25% membership discount if you recruit a new Trust to your group,
- ◆ Multiple referrals will result in multiple discounts, with up to 4 referrals per meeting round,
- ◆ If you choose to stand as Chair of one of our groups, you will receive a 25% discount.

And, if you are not quite sure if a particular group will be the right one for you, you may attend as a try-before-you-buy guest!

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

The NPAG Team

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As Head of a Biomedical Engineering Department, it is essential to keep abreast of best practice, developments in clinical practice, quality management and regulation. NPAG is a great way of sharing information & experiences on a wide variety of these fast-moving topics.

Member of the NPAG Clinical Engineering Group



National Performance
Advisory Group

Health Visiting & School Health Services Network 2023—Relaunched

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 have just relaunched 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 of the new series was held last month and has provided a great opportunity to re-establish this key network as an important 'expert reference group' for central bodies such as the Department of Health and Social Care. Membership offers CPD points.

What have we been doing?

- ♦ Engaging with leads within Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England / Improvement - both very active supporters of our group in recent years
- ♦ Hearing from 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
- ♦ Liaising with 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?

Please contact Laura Howe for further details about the new series of meetings

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

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



Theatres and Decontamination Conference

18th May 2023

Coventry Building Society Arena

This conference will provide delegates with the opportunity to hear from key speakers on a variety of subjects affecting theatres and decontamination science personnel. The programme will inform and educate delegates on subjects that affect their everyday life all of which will help contribute to the safety and care of our patients.

Why Attend?

This annual one-day conference provides 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.

There will be plenty of networking opportunities throughout the day with the chance to meet with NPAG Theatres and Decontamination members who have achieved success and savings through productive benchmarking.

In addition to the educational component of the day, this event will highlight products and services of commercial companies and how they can aid in the everyday, working lives of our delegates.

In 2022, delegate feedback was extremely positive with over 90% of attendees agreeing this event supported them with new learning or knowledge.

Who Should Attend?

This conference is open to all NHS and non-NHS theatres, clinical, surgical, sterile services, decontamination leads, GP's, theatre nurses, infection control and endoscopy staff.

2022 Conference Delegate Feedback:

"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!"

Meet our Business Partners:



Speakers Include

B. Braun Medical Ltd

Providing an educational solution-orientated presentation that aligns to the key challenges facing our SSD and theatre teams today.

Dan Pearce

Senior Implementation Manager, National Theatre Programme., NHS England

Mark Rigby

Head of Theatres Services, Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Nigel Roberts

Head Theatre Practitioner (Head of Nursing), Birmingham Women's and Children's (Children's site). Visiting Lecturer at Birmingham City Uni, PhD student at the university of Derby

Meredith Smart

Research and Development Director, 20/30labs
Providing a presentation on medical device IFUs what is validation?

Interested? Book before April 7th for the early bird rate. All booking forms must be received by email or online via the NPAG website.

e: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

w: [Theatres and Decontamination Conference 2023](https://www.npag.org.uk)
[NPAG](https://www.npag.org.uk)

Facilities North Best Value Group 2023-24

Meeting 1: 15th March 2023, MS Teams

The NPAG Facilities North Best Value Group continues to be an increasingly recognised specialist group which enables senior operational facilities managers from across the NHS to share knowledge, best practice initiatives, discuss operational concerns and measure service performance using tailor made benchmarking activities to critically review cost effective solutions.

The NHS more than ever is in a constant period of change in terms of service delivery, cost pressures, limited resources, procurement challenges and operational issues. Increasing demands placed on clinical and non clinical services are unprecedented. The way in which facilities staff continue to respond has been exemplary. NHS trusts are deciding what the new normal way of operation will be. There has never been a more important time to take the opportunity to network with facilities colleagues and use the group synergy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

NPAG has always worked in the spirit of partnership to form strong links with NHS England colleagues. This group meets 4 times per year, including one joint meeting with members of the Facilities South BVG. This supports a nation wide network for members. The agenda is member led, based on personal challenges, hot topics, new areas of legislation and areas of concern. Each meeting includes presentations on products and services as well as presentations from NHSE staff who are leading on national initiatives. Some of the topics planned for this year include but are not limited to:

- **Apprentices and workforce**
- **National food and cleaning standards**
- **PLACE.**
- **National Uniform for E & F staff**

"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 the 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." Vice Chair Facilities North BVG 2022, Head of Domestic Services, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS FT

Why join? Our Chair says:

"It is been a thoroughly worthwhile experience for me to chair this specialist group of operational senior facilities managers. The meetings continue to be a great resource and allows members to share information & experience in a confidential environment. Each meeting is supplemented by a presentation on a subject agreed by members. I look forward to the next round of meetings & welcoming members old and new to the group."

Interested? The next round of meetings will commence on **Wednesday 15th March 2023 via the virtual platform MS Teams**. The round will consist of x3 virtual meetings and x1 Face-2-Face meeting in Sheffield. Please contact Marie Cherry for further details or complete the attached Registration Form to secure your place:

e: marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk w: [Facilities North Best Value Group | NPAG](#)

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

IT and Connectivity Network 2023

Meeting 1 of 4: TBC Mid April 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 rather than enjoy the many benefits of the traditional face to face sessions we've been used to. 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. Each of our meetings provide members with a very rare and valuable opportunity - the time to think. The space our meetings create allow us to explore with like-minded professionals the challenges – and the successes – of our work; and there has been some lively and interesting discussions over the year.

If you happen to be working in a technology based NHS service at the moment, you will know that the tentacles of IT reach into all areas of digital and healthcare technology; and just like a hydra's head, if you manage to resolve one IT issue you will also know that another two pop up almost immediately! In fact, sometimes it's just a challenge getting your own head around all the competing IT demands and complexities that are out there.

There are perhaps too many to talk about here, but we would like to share a few of them with you, in the hope that they may stimulate your interest enough to maybe come and join us next year? We certainly hope so.

- ◆ Hold professional discussions across the widening variety of disciplines attracted to the group
- ◆ Explore current topics and professional challenges
- ◆ Support each other by extending our contact with NPAG members between meetings
- ◆ Hear from others through presentations from credible and informative guest speakers and suppliers
- ◆ Learn from each other and exchange good practice

For the coming year we have identified some hot topics for discussion, set against a background of preparing to support plans for a Net Zero National Health Service.

- ◆ **'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**

"The IT and Connectivity Network brings together NHS Acute and Community IT professionals, including Clinical Engineering, to understand and overcome some of the interoperability, security and connection issues they, and their teams, face on a daily basis. More recently the Network has widened its reach into the areas of digital leadership, the impact of digital transformation, and supporting people through major IT changes, so that organisations can better engage their staff in the design of new and replacement systems." Communication and Engagement Lead, Kent and Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

Interested?

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

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

w: www.npag.org.uk | NPAG

Clinical Professional Development

Clinical Development Modules for Occupational Health Professionals

A series of 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 advisers 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 Development for Occupational Health Professionals 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 individuals 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

"It was a great study day – very useful, relevant and well presented. Probably one of the best study days I have been on in many years."

Sickness Absence Management Referrals, Occupational Health Advisor, John Radcliffe Hospital

This year we have introduced 2 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](#)

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](#)

Book before the 13th March to receive a 10% discount.

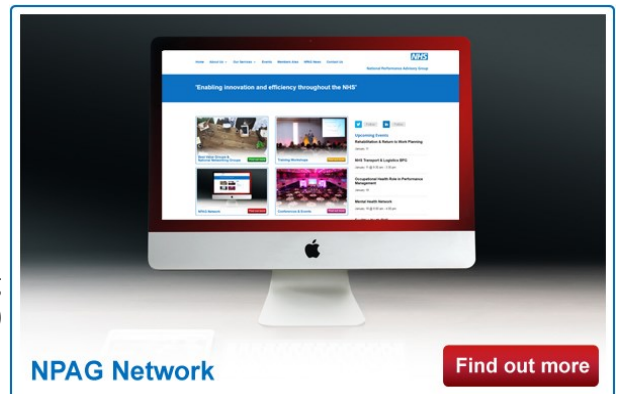
NPAGNetwork

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:

“Does anyone have any information on electric vehicle charging policies?”

NHS Transport & Logistics BPG Member

“Does your Hospital have a dedicated, separate, room or facility for testing lasers. Or do you use the clinical area where the device is used, to perform the laser testing?”

Clinical Engineering North Member

“What process/procedure are Trusts using to identify when curtains at ward and department level require changing, what systems and/or processes are you using to record this?”

Facilities North Member

“My colleague Bekky would like to reach out to NPAG and find out which collections management software people are using and get thoughts and recommendations. We currently use Collectrium, which is coming to an end, therefore we really need to source a good alternative provider and ideally a provider we can migrate the existing records over as otherwise this will be a huge task.”

Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare Member

“Our Trust currently uses paper permits and scratch cards for staff parking and I'm trying to convince our Board that we need to ditch it this year. Our staff buy an annual permit and their daily charge using a scratch card, the daily rate they pay depends of their salary. Please can colleagues at other Trust's let me know what methods/systems they use for any digital solutions?”

NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Transport 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

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. and for sharing of documents and ideas between meetings.

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:



"Please could you fill and circulate the below survey as widely as possible? The results be crucial to helping us understand how creative health is faring, and where investment and support is coming from. This is a partnership between the Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance, the Wales Arts, Health & Wellbeing Network, Arts, Culture, & Wellbeing Scotland, and Arts Care (Northern Ireland) "

Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare Network Member

"I wonder if the group has done any work on benchmarking of how much they currently charge Staff for EV charging at their workplace?"

NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Transport Network Member

"Looking forward to catching up with forum members and meeting new ones in the very near future. Please can I ask whether in your areas you undertake the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) neglect tool. If you do, any feedback, observations etc would be greatly welcomed."

Health Visiting and School Health Services Network Member

"Not sure if STH/Estates capital projects still have a % for art scheme? They used to ringfence a certain amount per project for any artwork, then it became more like a 'as and when they felt they could include it' and not sure what has happened since you took over?"

Arts, Heritage and Design in Healthcare Network Member

"Hi all, I am delighted to let you know that we have today published the NHS' first Net Zero Building Standard! I wanted to extend a massive personal thank you to all of you who have been involved in helping us to shape this (incredible) document. As you know this technical guidance will support the development of sustainable, resilient, and energy efficient buildings that meet the needs of patients now and in the future."

From NHS England to the NHS Sustainability Leads Network Members

"Could I please ask if any of the group would be willing to share their car parking and EV charging trust policies as we are working alongside a sustainable travel and transport plan to produce some new documents."

NHS Car Parking and Sustainable Transport Network Member

"Does anyone has a pain management pathway that they could share please?"

Operating Theatre Managers BVG Member

"We are currently trying to put together a specification for washroom services (Sanitary bins etc) at NUH and wondered if any members had a specification they are happy to share with us."

Waste Management BVG 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,

- **Sustainability**
- **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

March

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

April

- EPRR
- Facilities South
- NHS Sustainability Leads
- Violence Reduction and Security Management
- IT and Connectivity

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, The Park Inn, Northampton**

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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