

# Health Education England Thames Valley & Wessex Primary Care School Primary Care Network-level approval of Primary Care learning environment project

## Frequently asked questions

### How long will this project run for?

We anticipate the project will run for 18 months to 2 years after Primary Care Networks (PCNs) sign up and receive funding. Please note this could be longer.

### What is the deadline for PCN's to express interest in this project?

PCN's must submit expressions of interest for the project by no later than Friday 17 February to enable the Primary Care School to distribute funding.

### What is the expectation for the funded administrative time?

Your dedicated administrator will be expected to arrange round table meetings for the approval of the PCN site and will act as a point of contact, providing information to learners placed in the PCN. They will also support the development of:

- An educator database
- Learner induction plans
- Learner pathways (and allocating learners to these) and
- PCN profile (for incoming students)

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and should be modified to suit the PCNs specific needs.

### How much administration time is needed as part of this role?

At the beginning of the project, we expect the administrator will spend a significant amount of time on the activities outlined above. As time progresses, this may be one or two sessions a week. This is intended to be flexible as to your PCNs needs.

### What is the expectation for the funded educator time?

Your dedicated educator will be expected to (among other things):

- Plan placement pathways

- Identify educators and maintain a PCN educator database
- Develop and provide orientation and induction to the PCN learning environment
- Support delivery of educational updates

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and should be modified to suit the PCNs specific needs.

### **Will the educator lead need to have any specific qualifications?**

Not specifically, they should simply be someone working in your PCN with a passion for education.

The funding can be used to give your PCN's educational environment lead or workforce support lead additional hours or can be used to develop an additional person to lead on education in your PCN.

### **How can PCNs make the administrator and educator roles sustainable after the project ends?**

Many learners incur tariff payments to support host-practices, this funding could be used to fund these roles on a continuous basis.

### **Is there a minimum number of learners that each PCN needs to host as part of this project?**

No, this project is intended to incrementally increase the number of learners hosted across Primary Care in Thames Valley and Wessex. It is not mandatory for each PCN learning environment to host a student within the project's timeline.

### **Are PCNs able to sign up to this project if they don't already host learners?**

You can take part even if you don't have many different learners currently training in your PCN. Each PCN will complete the same approval process so if you meet the mandatory requirements (matched against the HEE Quality Framework), that means you can take any learner. This also means you do not have to be reapproved to take different types of learners.

### **What types of learners are covered in the project?**

Phase one of the project will approve PCN's to host wider workforce learner which can include:

- Allied health professionals
- Nurses including nurse associates
- Pharmacists
- Physician associates

Phase two is developing at pace and will allow PCNs to host both wider workforce and medical learners. We expect that the requirements of PCNs will not substantially change within the two phases, so PCNs will not be expected to re-accredit.

### **Will this project include medical school / undergraduate learners?**

This has not yet been nationally agreed but is under discussion.

### **How are learners placed within practices / PCNs?**

All Universities liaise directly with the Primary Care School to request Primary Care placements – specifically with our learning environment leads (LELs). Our LELs then liaise with PCNs to organise placements throughout the year.

This arrangement is based on mutual agreement and PCNs can accept or decline placement requests. We will work with you to understand your needs / capacity at any one time and allocate accordingly.

### **How long is the average learner placement?**

It will depend on the learner, but most placements are six to eight weeks in length.

### **How will PCNs be supported to take on new types of learners, in particular apprentices?**

We have an apprenticeship lead who can support you. LELs can also support with managing new learner pathways.

### **Estates is a huge barrier to expanding workforce. Will there be any additional funding or support available to PCNs to overcome this?**

We recognise that there is an issue with estates in Primary Care that may impact the ability to provide quality learning environments. Assuring the delivery of quality learning environments at PCN level will require the estates to support this. The Primary Care School team are actively involved in conversations with NHS England and the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) across Thames Valley and Wessex on the issue of estates and to ensure learners are represented in conversations.

It is worth noting that through this project, learners could be based outside of GP practices for example in care homes or community pharmacies.

### **Will learners need a room to independently practice, or will they work alongside existing staff?**

This will vary across profession and study level; your local LEL can provide further detail on this.

Generally, if practices feel a learner is able to work with indirect supervision, they can support this (for example undertaking health checks). Please note some areas of the curriculum will need direct supervision.

### **Whilst there are lots of professional development opportunities available, these are often limited in entry criteria. Will there be any funding coming directly to PCNs to offer individual colleagues' professional development?**

The Primary Care School team will work with PCNs across Thames Valley and Wessex to understand the educational requirements of their staff. There are various national funding streams which can be drawn upon to fund these types of opportunities.

We are also reviewing with colleagues across our three ICBs how Target (Hampshire and Isle of Wight) and Protected Learning Time (Frimley and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West) will look going forward and how this can link in to PCN-level education.

### **How often will my PCN have to re-accredit as a learning environment?**

The accreditation process is intended to be one-off. However, should any quality concerns arise within your PCN, the Primary Care School team will look to conduct an audit with you to resolve this.

### **How is my practice covered if an issue arises concerning a learner hosted by the PCN?**

Indemnity cover will be the same as when hosting any learner. Every practice will have their own indemnity insurance, which will cover any learners working there.

### **What happens if my PCN doesn't sign up to the project?**

This project is nationally driven, recognising commitments the NHS Long Term Plan (2019) to bring General Practice together to work at scale. We therefore anticipate this project will be rolled out widely in the future. As an early adopter of a PCN-level learning environment, you will have the opportunity to claim one-off time limited funds to support the development of your PCN.