

Thames Valley and Wessex Primary Care School Primary Care Fellowship programme – 2023-24

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Fellowship?

A Fellowship is the opportunity for an individual to undertake a specific project, whilst still in their substantive role. For the Thames Valley and Wessex (TVW) Primary Care Fellowship, the Fellowship time is funded by NHS England's (NHSE's) Workforce, Training and Education Directorate (formerly Health Education England).

Fellows combine delivering care in their clinical roles whilst undertaking a project which has an educational focus.

Fellows are supported during their Fellowship by a Mentor, and they have regular learning sets and workshops.

Funding is available for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) related to the Fellowship topic.

There are lots of different types of Fellowship programmes that people can apply for such as: Primary Care Fellowships, New to Practice Fellowships and local programmes such as Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire Mid-Career Fellowships.

This paper relates to Primary Care Fellowships administered by the TVW Primary Care School.

How long is the Fellowship?

The Primary Care Fellowship is usually one year in duration for two sessions / eight hours a week.

This may vary for wider workforce fellows – if this applies to you, please speak with the fellowship team for further details.

Why does NHSE support Fellowships?

The Primary Care School hopes that this Fellowship programme will facilitate the development of innovative ideas and projects related to education. It also helps to strengthen relationships between Primary Care and Thames Valley and Wessex Primary Care School.

Who can apply?

The Primary Care Fellowships are open to any qualified Primary Care professionals working within Primary Care throughout TVW.

We welcome applications from all professions.

How many Fellowships are available?

The 2023-24 cohort is made up of 20 Primary Care Fellowships and will commence in September 2023.

The topics areas for the 2023-24 Fellowship projects are currently being finalised. Previous fellowship topics have included:

- Health Inequality Trailblazer
- Simulation
- Primary Care Training Hub
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) / International Medical Graduate (IMG) support
- Exam support
- Capacity / Expansion
- Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP)

How does the funding work?

The funding for the Primary Care Fellowship is allocated via a host employer with whom the Primary Care School already holds an existing educational agreement. This includes all training practices, and some providers who have hosted other NHSE-funded learners.

All organisations which previously signed Health Education England's NHS Education Contract are considered to hold an existing agreement with NHSE.

If you would like to apply for a Fellowship and you are not sure if this includes your employer, please contact the Primary Care School before submitting an expression of interest.

Each fellow has money allocated for CPD. The CPD funding may be used for further education programmes such as a relevant PGCert MedEd / Diploma, or for other courses / conferences relevant to the Fellowship topic.

Fellows draw down this funding from their host employer following approval from the 444

What format does the Fellowship take?

The Fellowship is a hybrid model, some of the work is virtual working from home, and some may be face to face, such as meeting mentors. Some time may need to be spent in other locations such as the relevant NHSE local office.

The programme is flexible and is co-designed with the cohort.

There is a monthly development session facilitated by the Primary Care School. The sessions are a blended approach including speakers and learning sets, peer support and networking opportunities.

Are the NHSE Primary Care Fellowships the same as New to Practice Fellowships?

No, they are separate from the New to Practice Fellowships.

In summary, the NHS TVW Primary Care Fellowship:

- Develops new and innovative educational projects which aim to impact and improve the experience for learners, Primary Care professionals, and the local citizens of TVW
- Helps fellows gain and develop new knowledge, skills, and competences in areas including project development, project management, facilitation, leadership, communication, and presentation skills
- Supports the development of our workforce, providing individuals with funding to undertake an accredited education programme or undertake educational support relevant to the Fellowship project
- Build relationships with NHSE and Primary Care