

Wessex Head of School Newsletter

July 2023

Welcome from Dr Manjiri Bodhe (Head of School) & Dr Nick Moore (Deputy Head of School)

Welcome to our July edition of the Wessex newsletter. We know that general practice has been extremely challenging over the last year, and we thank you for all your hard work and support.

I wanted to update you on what is being offered in Wessex for our Trainers and our Doctors in Training (DiT).

We have recently updated our website to include our Frequently Asked Questions, <https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/> Many questions can be answered here and may save you the time of sending an email.

From April 2023 Health Education England merged with NHS England (NHSE) you will start to notice that communications and emails are being sent out with the NHSE branding.

Johnny Lyon-Maris, our Associate Dean for Southampton and lead on our train the trainer courses will be retiring from the deanery in mid-July. We would like to thank him for all his hard work supporting trainers and trainees during his many years of service with Wessex.

Welcome to Wessex

We will be running our Welcome to Wessex event for all our new Cohort of DiTs - invites will be sent out in the coming weeks. There are also dedicated IMG events.

Trainer & Trainee Support

A referral to The Professional Support and Wellbeing Service (PSW) should be jointly conducted by the DiTs and the Trainer. If you feel as you may benefit from support, please have a discussion with your Trainer and they can submit the referral.

The PSW team help with all aspects support for the DiTs well-being and support. This includes Supported Return to Training (SRTT), exam support, Dyslexia Screening, as well as many specialist support groups.

Upon referral to PSW you will be assigned a case worker for more information about the PSW team please see the website. <https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/wellbeing-and-support/psw/>

Good News

We have successfully had 5 new training practices come on board for August 4 in Southampton and 1 in Mid-Wessex.

And we are very fortunate to have 23 new trainers joining us across Wessex, we are always in need of new trainers and new sites if you know any practice or GPs that are interested more information can be found on our website. <https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/gp-educational-supervisors/>

Less Than Full Time Training (LTFT)

Please see our new LTFT guidance on our website below:

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/gp-training/>

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/trainee-information/trainee-journey/less-than-full-time-training/>

I would urge all ES/CS's to support their trainees on their application where they can, but please do not promise DiTs space in your practice. This piece of work is part of a larger placement work done by our Associate Deans and TPDs for each patch. Reducing percentage means that trainees must stay with that ES for longer periods of time which can impact on other placements. Individual trainers cannot promise a placement for a trainee, this needs to be agreed by the local TPD and by the Deanery. In addition, payroll cannot implement this immediately either.

We require details on DiTs application as to why they are applying regardless of which previous category it fell into. If there is not enough detail, we may email to ask for further details.

There are now two application windows per year, application need to be received 16 weeks prior to the rotation change over. The deadline for applications to commence for February 2024 will be 18th October 2023.

OOP

If you are considering taking time out of training, first explore the website to gain further information. <https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/gp-training/> DiTs must approach their Patch AD, TPD and ES in the first instance to discuss a potential application.

We would implore you submit your application in a timely manner, as the process can take several weeks, we encourage you to submit your completed application no later than 3 months prior to the start date of anticipated OOP. As per Gold Guide 9th Edition OOP should not be used

to manage ill health, if you are considering needing time off please speak to your trainer about support available.

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/trainee-information/trainee-journey/out-of-programme/>

AKT Exam

If you are a GPST2 please speak to your Educational Supervisor about the best time for you to sit your AKT exam. Please see the RCGP AKT pages for further information

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/applied-knowledge-test>

RCA Exam

The RCA will be replaced by the Simulated Consultation Assessment (SCA) from the Autumn, if you failed the RCA in the recent spring sittings you will be eligible to re-sit either the RCA or SCA this Autumn. Please discuss with your ES the best option for you.

The RCGP are offering Trainer and Trainee FAQ sessions on the SCA on 7th September 2023, you can find more information on the SCA pages.

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/simulated-consultation-assessment>

Exceptional Fifth Attempts

If a trainee wishes to apply for a 5th exceptional attempt to the RCGP for the AKT or RCA, please see the current RCGP page <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/mrcgp-important-info>

The Head of School will normally complete and submit the application but will require initial information from the Associate Dean and the DiT as documented in the guidance below.

- [MRCGP exceptional fifth attempts policy \(PDF file, 646 KB\)](#)
 - [MRCGP exceptional fifth attempts form \(DOC file, 59 KB\)](#)
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Placements

Please note placement planning is now confirmed for August and is still ongoing for February unfortunately with pressures on General Practice, we may not always be able to place DiTs in their ideal post and this situation may continue. NHSE are continuing to do their absolute best to recruit trainers and practices so we can offer DiTs placements, please do not ask for changes in placements for choice. If there are occupational health needs, then of course we will try our absolute best to accommodate this with the reasonable adjustments put in place.

We will confirm via email your next placement in line with our code of practice. (12 weeks in advance) Please do not contact the deanery or your patch team in advance as they will not have been finalised.

MPS Indemnity

All Wessex GP Doctors in Training have access to free indemnity cover via Medical Protection Society (MPS). Health Education England – Wessex provides details of new trainees to MPS who make direct contact. We encourage all Doctors in Training to take up the offer of this cover as it provides support and advice unlike the NHS indemnity scheme which will only cover the financial aspects of a negligence claim. For example, in the event of a GMC referral or an attendance at a coroner's court, they can provide detailed medico-legal advice.

If you are a current DiT and haven't already signed up more information can be found here, there are steps you need to take to register to gain your indemnity cover.

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/trainee-information/employment-matters-2/medical-indemnity/>

August 2023 intake will be contacted by MPS via email and post in July to register and take up the offer of block indemnity.

You will need to have secured indemnity cover prior to starting in a General Practice placement either through MPS or sourcing your own cover, Crown indemnity doesn't cover primary care placements. We would urge all DiTs to secure your indemnity in plenty of time of starting your GP posts.

MPS members also have free access to a variety of courses and webinars created to educate, strengthen your essential skills, and reduce your professional risk.

<https://www.medicalprotection.org/uk/professional-development-courses/webinars>

ARCP

Please note ARCP is an integral process in training and is not optional for either ESs or DiTs to complete. The final ARCP is particularly important as this is the DiTs pre CCT ARCP which recognises completion of all components of training and their ability to practice safely as an independent GP.

We have had many GP DiTs getting Outcome 5s for incomplete portfolios.

The Deanery team send out multiple reminders pre ARCP and in addition there is now an easy checklist on the fourteen fish portfolio to ensure that this is as easy as possible.

Since August 2022 Hands on BLS with AED for adult and child has been a mandatory requirement, once attended please ensure you upload the certificate to your compliance passport.

Since September 2022 all Form Rs are to be completed via TIS self-service then downloaded and attached to your Portfolio, altering the old Form R will result in an Outcome 5.

If there are mitigating circumstances, such as illness or bereavement, ensure there is a portfolio entry recording this and ensure the Form R is completed with all sick and absence days documented. If this is not recorded accurately there is a risk that you will be unable to CCT on time or that you will not receive your CCT certificate from the GMC. Please see all ARCP information here:

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/gp-training/>

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/accreditation-and-revalidation/arcp/>

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/wpba/annual-review-of-competence-progression>

IMG

IMG doctors who are new to the Wessex region are required to attend a Wessex IMG Induction Programme (for doctors who are new to the NHS). The following events are planned for 2023: 11th September and 6th November further details can be found on our website.

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/trainee-information/trainee-journey/international-medical-graduates/>

Doctors who are new to the UK may find it beneficial to attend one of the GMC's FREE Welcome to the UK Practice workshops. Further information on these workshops including booking arrangements can be found here <https://www.gmc-uk.org/about/what-we-do-and-why/learning-and-support/workshops-for-doctors/welcome-to-uk-practice>

Patch Updates

Our patch teams have moved over to NHSE, this does not affect the day-to-day work of the patch teams however their contact details have been updated. Please ensure you are using the up-to-date contact details.

Dorset dorsetgptraining.se@hee.nhs.uk / dorsetgptrainers.se@hee.nhs.uk

Mid-Wessex mwgpe.se@hee.nhs.uk

Portsmouth portsmouthgpenquiries.se@hee.nhs.uk

Southampton Inga.Janmere@hee.nhs.uk / Susan.Lambrou@hee.nhs.uk /

Carol.Reed@hee.nhs.uk

Good luck to those DiTs who are due to CCT soon. Thank you once again to all Trainers for all the great work you are doing in medical education.