

Wessex Head of School Newsletter

March 2023

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

Welcome to our February edition of the Wessex newsletter, it was fantastic to see so many of our trainers at our Trainer's conference in January, we are hoping to be able to provide more of these face-to-face events in the future.

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

Welcome to Wessex

It was lovely to see so many of our GPST1s at the recent Welcome to Wessex event, we hope you had an enjoyable morning and gained an insight into how we are here to support you on your training journey.

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 though 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

New sites – We have recently approved 4 new sites: 2 in Jersey and 2 in Mid Wessex
New Trainers- We are pleased to report that we have approved 10 new trainers: 4 in Dorset, 3 in Jersey, 2 in Mid Wessex and 1 in Portsmouth.

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.

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

Our records show there are currently some GPST3s that are yet to book their AKT, the final date for this academic year is 26th April 2023, the booking period is 01st-03rd March 2023, please ensure this is in your diary to book.

If you are a GPST2 please speak to your Educational Supervisor about the best time for you to sit your AKT exam.

RCA Exam

Please note the latest version of a consultation skills exam is planned, details are yet to be released by the RCGP. As per their website below there will be an autumn sitting of RCA for those that fail the Spring exam. <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/mrcgp-exam-applications#rca>

Our current records show that some of our GPST3s have yet to book their spring sitting for the RCA. The booking window for the March sitting is open until the 21st of February 2023 and the April sitting is open from the 14th-28th March 2023, we wish you well in your Spring sitting. Congratulations to our GPST3 who have already passed.

“We therefore ask all trainees planning to submit for the RCA in March or April this year to carefully consider your options, and if possible, please submit in the March 2023 diet”

Autumn RCA examination “The College continues to work on the replacement assessment for the RCA, and we remain committed to provide six months’ notice for all trainees. We do understand though that trainees who sit the RCA in March or April will be concerned around resit opportunities and so we feel it is important to communicate that for any trainees who are unsuccessful in the April RCA diet there will be an opportunity for a final RCA sitting in autumn 2023”.

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 \(DOC file, 59 KB\)](#)

Placements

Please note placement planning is still ongoing and we are trying to recruit more trainers, however with pressures on General Practice, we may not always be able to place trainees in their ideal post and this situation may continue. HEE are continuing to do their absolute best to recruit trainers and practices so we can offer DiTs placements but please do not ask for changes in placements for choice. If 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 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/>

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 DiT 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 ES or DiT to complete. The final ARCP is particularly important as this is the DiT's 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 September 2022 all Form R's 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: 6th March and 24th April, 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 HEE, this does not affect the day-to-day work of the patch teams however their contact details have been updated.

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 DiT who are due to CCT soon and to those doing exams. Thank you once again to all Trainers for all the great work you are doing in medical education.