

NHS England Thames Valley and Wessex, Primary Care School Primary Care Fellowship Programme – 2026-27

Information

The Programme

The NHS England Thames Valley and Wessex Primary Care Fellowship is a one-year programme designed to support educational capacity and drive innovation in primary care education.

Funded by NHS England, the fellowship focuses on the national NHS Priorities, promoting the shift from hospital to community care through workforce development and leadership, whilst strengthening connections between Primary Care and Primary Care Education and Training.

The programme is open to multiprofessional clinical staff working in primary care in Thames Valley and Wessex. It offers an opportunity for an individual to undertake a specific educationally focused project whilst continuing in their substantive clinical role.

The Primary Care Fellows are funded for two sessions a week to work on a specific educational project, supported by an experienced mentor. Therefore, the Fellows will be developing and delivering high quality care in their clinical roles, whilst at the same time gaining knowledge and experience related to primary care education.

During their time on programme, fellows are supported by programme leads within the Primary Care School, as well as designated mentors for specific project roles.

It is expected that fellows will share the outcomes of their projects, both within the Primary Care School and beyond.

Why does NHS England support Fellowships?

The GP and Primary Care Schools intend that this Fellowship programme will facilitate the priorities of the NHS and facilitate the development of innovative ideas and projects that will support educational capacity and expansion in primary care.

The programme helps to strengthen relationships between Primary Care and NHSE and provide a pipeline of future educators.

How many are in the 2026-2027 Fellowship Programme?

We expect that there will be 14 fellows starting on 15th September 2026.

What is the focus of the Fellowship?

The focus of the Fellowships is supporting educational capacity expansion in primary care.

GP Fellows

GP Fellows will be based with colleagues within the GP school teams. They will have the opportunity to support facilitation of day release sessions and or structured learning sessions, as well as working on projects to support educational capacity expansion and innovation. For example, supporting the creation of innovative educational placements in primary care settings, supervision structures and flexible ways of learning.

Wider Workforce (Simulation) Fellows

Wider workforce colleagues will work on projects related to simulation in primary care, which could range from table top SIM to communication skills to innovative placement ideas.

Recruitment to the Fellowship

Individuals should express interest for the Fellowship using the Fellowship Expression of Interest form (EOI) accompanied by a short video (see the video guidelines).

Following the closing date, a review process will take place. Once the process is finished, the successful individuals will be informed.

Who can apply?

EOI are welcome from any Clinical Primary Care team member – including, but not limited to: General Practice Nurses, AHPs, pharmacists, and GPs.

People who have completed fellowships funded by NHSE/ HEE in the past, such as the TVW Primary Care Fellowship, Quality Improvement Fellows, previous IELF Fellows are not eligible to apply.

Current GP School/ Primary Care School colleagues are not eligible to apply.

Locums are not eligible to apply, as the funding needs to be hosted by an employing practice.

Please note, anyone under review by their professional body, such as GMC conditions, should contact the Fellowship programme leads prior to applying.

We require GP applicants to have reached CCT prior to the EOI deadline.

Question and Answer sessions

For more information about the fellowships, there are optional Q and A drop-in sessions, hosted by Maggie Woods and Catherine James, on:

20TH May 2026 at 12.30-13.30

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/365566605292392?p=Q2LIH4zvIHOMv9rnb2>

or

26th May 2026 12.30-13.30 follow the link to join,

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/345800064530854?p=t1svJ3nLhYvZoWkULZ>

Closing Date

The closing date for EOI and video submission is 9am 5th June 2026

Outcome

We aim to inform successful applicants the week commencing the 29th June 2026

Intended outcomes:

The Fellowships will provide a unique personal development opportunity by:

- Combining a clinical role with a Fellowship project.

- Developing new and innovative educational projects which will impact and improve the services for learners, primary care professionals, and the local citizens in the South East.
- Gain and develop knowledge, skills, and competences in areas including - project development, project management, facilitation, leadership, communication, and presentation skills.
- Access Continuous Professional Development (CPD) funding to undertake an accredited education programme or undertake educational support relevant to the Fellowship.

Fellowship Projects

During the Fellowship year each fellow works on a project.

All projects must link to ambitions within the NHSE Priorities, NHS Long Term Plan, NHS Long Term Workforce Plan, NHS People Plan, Local Integrated Care System priorities and / or NHSE priorities. Plus, the HEE educator workforce strategy.

The choice of the fellowship project is for negotiation between the Fellow and the Mentor. Projects should support educational capacity expansion, be of interest and benefit to both parties, the primary care workforce and in keeping with NHSE priorities.

The Fellowship is a personal development opportunity for the individual, supported by the GP and Primary Care Schools, which also benefits the NHSE team.

The Programme

During the period of the Fellowship, individuals receive support from the Primary Care Schools, mentors, and peer support networks.

Apart from at the start, it is recommended that there is a minimum of one hour per month of mentoring time. The exact details of this will vary depending on the fellowship / mentor and may vary at different points over the Fellowship year.

The fellowship programme is flexible. There will be a monthly development session facilitated by the Primary Care School. It will be a blended approach including mentoring from key team members, and activities such as learning sets, peer support and networking opportunities.

Fellows applying for the Wessex posts need to be available on Wednesdays as their main fellowship day, and for Thames Valley Fellows Tuesdays. All fellows need to be available for the CPD workshops and conferences – see dates below. Please note that these take place on Tuesdays. If you would like to ask more about this, please come along to the question-and-answer sessions.

The Fellowship project work will be primarily remote, though Fellows will have the option to attend important meetings and learning events connected to the programme as needed, potentially including patch day release courses.

What are the expected outcomes of the Fellowship?

Every fellow must submit a report at the conclusion of their Fellowship year. This can be in any format (including video). Reports from previous fellows are available [here](#).

We will ask for an interim, less formal project situation report / update at six months to review progress.

All fellows are also expected to present at the end of Fellowship Conference. The presentations are related to the project and their personal development. Mentors are invited to attend that conference. Many Fellows also present their projects at national conferences e.g. Royal College of General Practitioners Conference.

How does the funding work?

The funding for the Primary Care Fellowships is allocated via the Fellow's host employer (i.e. the fellow's employing practice). This **must** be a practice with whom NHS England holds an existing Educational Funding Agreement (EFA).

If you are unsure whether your practice has signed the EFA, please ask your practice manager prior to applying.

The intention is to pay no more than the Fellow's clinical sessional rate, including on costs. If the Fellowship funding covers more than that (e.g. wider workforce colleagues), then the duration of the Fellowship may be extended accordingly. This will be agreed on a case-by-case basis.

The Primary Care School teams will liaise with the Fellow's host employer to facilitate the transfer of the Fellowship funding, £24k (including on costs) plus the CPD allocation £4k.

Further details will be in the Statement of Engagement which will be signed by the Fellow and the host employer. This will be issued upon appointment to the fellowship.

What CPD funding is available?

Each fellow has £4k allocated for Continuing Professional Development (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 project topic. It is not for clinical CPD.

The CPD Funding is transferred to and is held by the host practice. Fellows draw down this funding from their practice by completing a study funding request form. This requires the signature of their Mentor, and the Fellowship Programme Leads, Maggie Woods or Catherine James.

Funding approval must be applied for and agreed before any spending is committed.

Who should I talk to if I have any concerns during the Fellowship?

If you have any concerns regarding your project, please liaise with your mentor.

If you have concerns regarding logistics of the programme or anything else please contact the programme leads, Catherine James, catherine.james19@nhs.net and Maggie Woods Maggie.Woods@nhs.net

Continuous Professional Development Workshops

Fellows are expected to attend a monthly CPD workshops whilst on the fellowship programme. Unless indicated otherwise these are held virtually at 1400-1700hrs. via MS Teams on Tuesday afternoons.

Please see below for the initial CPD session dates for the 2026-2027 Fellowship programme:

Date	Time	Location
15th September 2026	All day	Explorer House, Southampton, Face to face
20 th October 2026	2-5pm	Via Teams

10 th November 2026	2-5pm	Via Teams
8 th December 2026	2-5pm	Via Teams
26 th January 2027	All day	Explorer House, Southampton, Face to face
23 rd February 2027	2-5pm	Via Teams
23 rd March 2027	2-5pm	Via Teams
27 th April 2027	2-5pm	Via Teams
18 th May 2027	2-5pm	Via Teams
22 nd June 2027	2-5pm	Via Teams
13 th July 2027	2-5pm	Via Teams
14 th September 2027	All day	Explorer House, Southampton, Face to face

Obligations

1. For the Fellow

To successfully complete the Fellowship programme, fellows are expected to:

- Commit to all the elements of the programme, including attendance at the CPD/ learning events.
- Work with their mentor to identify a relevant educationally focused project.
- Produce update reports when requested and a final report / presentation on their experiences and achievements during the Fellowship.
- If appropriate, produce a poster presentation.
- Communicate effectively and in a timely fashion with their mentor/ the programme leads.
- Jointly agree to the terms of the Statement of Engagement for the Fellowship programme
- As a representative of NHS England, act at all times in a professional manner.

2. For the host employer

In supporting a fellow, the host employer is expected to:

- Have signed the NHSE Education Funding Agreement
- Release the fellow for eight hours / two sessions a week.
- Jointly agree to the terms of the Statement of Engagement for the Fellowship programme
- Claim funds from the Primary Care School in accordance with the Statement of Engagement
- Liaise with the Primary Care School at the earliest opportunity if any concerns or issues arise.

3. For the Primary Care Schools and Fellowship programme team

To support all fellows and their employers, the Primary Care Schools and Fellowship programme team will:

- Provide leadership and support during the Fellowship year
- Provide Fellows with access to a Mentor for the entirety of their programme.
- Provide funds to support the Fellowship programme.
- Be available to support with any queries.
- Coordinate the monthly educational sessions.
- Approve the appropriate CPD requests

The Fellowship

All Fellowship posts will offer the following:

- Two sessions / 8 hours per week Fellowship time
- A minimum of 12 months on Fellowship programme
- Monthly CPD sessions on Tuesday afternoons, with three full day CPD at the start, midway and end of the programme.
- Mentoring from a named member of the host team within NHSE
- Opportunity to showcase project work at conferences as appropriate.

Please note, for the Thames Valley Fellows the GP School Day is a Tuesday and for Wessex Fellows, the GP School Day is Wednesday. These days the Fellows would be required to work.

If you have queries about the Fellowship Programme, please email:

Maggie Woods Maggie.Woods@nhs.net or Catherine James, catherine.james19@nhs

**We look forward to receiving your EOI and video for the Primary Care Fellowship by
9am on 5th June 2026.**

Please note that late or incomplete applications will not be considered.