Arrangements for Swapping practices during GP placements

Context

Towards the end of the 3 year VTS programme, whilst approaching the end of the ST3 GP placement it can be useful to consider experiencing a different practice. The potential benefits include a new IT system, new ways of working eg telephone triage v traditional appointment systems, different systems eg physio, ray etc, different populations eg rural v urban or SEC groups and also different training approaches.

It may facilitate future work options eg locum work

Arrangements:

Suitability – Only trainees who are performing well and who are expected to complete training within the normal time frame should consider this.

Timing - this should be done after completion of mandatory assessments eg AKT/CSA and near completion of WPBA. The exchange would normally be for a week, but could be up to 2 weeks.

Making arrangements – the trainee is responsible for discussing this with their trainer, and finding a suitable practice where the trainee also fulfils the suitability criteria. Both trainers should be happy with the arrangement, and both practices need enough notice to be able to arrange inductions, and change clinics. Joint surgeries and tutorials should occur as usual, with the exchanged trainee.

Informing the deanery – When both trainers have given consent, the trainees should discuss this with a TPD, who can document the discussion in the eportfolio as an educators note. Consent for these exchanges is discretionary, and if the educational team do not think it is in the best interests of the trainee(s) they may withhold consent. In this case they will discuss it with the trainers and document this in the eportfolio.

Recording activity – a minimum of a reflective entry a week should be made in the eportfolio. This could include reflections on the differences between practices, and difficulties that have arisen, or an interesting patient.

Issues arising – if either trainer has concerns about the process of any aspect of the trainees behaviour the this should be discussed with the trainee, and a TPD and documented in the eportfolio.