Dear GP Trainees and Trainers,

We hope you are all keeping well in these difficult times.

You may have noticed that we have stopped using our GP VTS website, and are in the process of moving information about the scheme to a new HEE site.

<https://gp-training.hee.nhs.uk/york/>

Copies of this news-email and further information about COVID 19 (employment, education and wellbeing resources) are on the new site.

<https://gp-training.hee.nhs.uk/york/gp-training/covid-19/>

We have listed the new important updates in this news-email and hope these answer your queries.

**Keeping in touch and support**

**Zoom Meeting for trainees Q&A Session with TPDs - Every Wednesday at 2pm**

Thank you to the 34 trainees that were able to join us for the first Zoom meeting on Wednesday.

These meetings are not mandatory, clinical commitments take priority. We have set these up as a support service for the trainees if they wish to join.

The link to join the meeting will be sent out by Beth each Wednesday morning.

**WhatsApp Group**

We will be setting up a trainee WhatsApp group so information can be disseminated quickly and trainees can ask questions as needed. Please let Beth or Nicola know if you would like to be added to this group.

Please note, the group will be checked once daily by a TPD at approx. 5pm and questions will be answered.

**Trainers Workshops**

These have been postponed, but we hope to set up a virtual TWS using Zoom, probably on the same date as the next planned session. We will send details via email.

**Trainer Appraisals/Re-Approval**

The TPDs have decided to suspend trainer appraisals until further notice. The HEE trainer re-approval process has also been put on hold.

These meeting are no longer an annual requirement, but after the pandemic if you would like to meet or need a meeting for your Revalidation please get in touch.

 **Educational Activities**

All educational activities (including HDR, WDR, tutorials & PLT) have been suspended and trainees are expected to undertake clinical work instead. In some GP practices there may still be time for teaching but this is not mandated and if the practice is under pressure then trainees are expected to undertake clinical work. Trainees must still be appropriately supervised and debriefed, especially if they are working from home.

**Study Leave**

Study Leave has been cancelled until further notice. If you have paid for a course or exam please contact the provider to find out more about receiving a refund or moving your booking to a later date.

**MRCGP (including exams, WBPA, ESR, ARCP and CCT) can be found in on this RCGP help sheet.**

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/-/media/Files/GP-training-and-exams/MRCGP/RCGP-MRCGP-faqs-march-2020.ashx?la=en>

**The key points are:**

**WBPAs**

WBPA does not need to be completed, but if there is an opportunity to complete an audio-COT or CEP then please do so.

Learning Logs should still be added by trainees, and their PDP updated.

**ESR and CSR**

These will still go ahead and should be performed virtually via Skype, Zoom or the phone. When completing the reports, supervisors are to take into consideration that the normal amount of WBPA evidence will not be available on the e-portfolio.​

**ARCP**

ARCPs will still go ahead virtually, using Zoom. This may only include trainees who are approaching CCT or who are facing challenges in work. If you are a trainer and have offered to help at this years ARCP, please could you keep the date free. Thank you.

**OOH/Urgent and Unscheduled Care**

We have received no clear guidance as of yet. We would suggest that trainees log and reflect on the urgent care telephone triage sessions they are doing in practices as these will provide evidence of urgent care experience.

**Contractual issues**

Telephone consulting is a challenging skill for experienced GPs. There are two helpful resource sheets on the website to help build confidence.

<https://gp-training.hee.nhs.uk/york/gp-training/covid-19/>

If a trainer has concerns about their trainee’s ability to do telephone consulting and triage safely we would suggest allocating other important and useful tasks to the trainee e.g. contacting vulnerable patients or managing prescriptions. Having them watch you doing telephone triage (if room space allows for adequate distancing) would also provide a valuable learning opportunity and build their skills.

**LTFT Trainees**

Trainees currently working LTFT have been given the opportunity to work more during this period if they wish to. The advice we have currently received is that this will not affect a trainee’s CCT date.

 **Annual Leave**

This should be taken where possible as planned. This is likely to be a marathon, not a sprint!

**Pregnancy**

There is a link of on the website to current guidance for pregnant workers

We do hope everyone is well and coping during this very difficult time. There is a list of wellbeing resources on the COVID page of the new website, please take a look.

Please do get in touch with Beth or your named TPD if you have any further queries or need additional support.

Kind Regards

**York GP VTS Team**

Medical Education Centre

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust