

Future Planning for Pharmacists in Primary Care

Background

I am writing to update you on some recent developments in relation to preparing pharmacists to work across primary care. As you know the NHS England programme to grow a pharmacist workforce in general practice has been very successful and there is increasingly good population coverage across England.

Health Education England are now starting to think about longer term planning and sustainability of this workforce, and are committed to exposing pharmacy trainees to a reflective range of working environments prior to their registration and beyond. This will support students and trainees to make correct career choices and to have some basic skills and knowledge about the various sectors of practice, enabling a more robust inter-professional network across primary care.

It is hoped that this will create a community pharmacy workforce with the skills and knowledge gained through also training in general practice, aiding the integration of the sector with the wider NHS and providing greater opportunities for future service provision through community pharmacy. There is huge pressure on primary care services, and integrating general practice and community pharmacy more closely will increase efficiency and reduce the workload on both parties; having professionals that understand both sectors will support this. This is an opportunity to become involved in something new, and to help re-shape pharmacist training for the future.

As you know we have a fair amount of experience locally now of providing very short placements in general practice of 8 days in total over approximately 6 weeks. This provides a brief taster but does not provide sufficient exposure to what is expected to become a mainstream pharmacist role in future. This has been successful but has been limited by a lack of funding and lack of placement capacity overall.

The Proposal

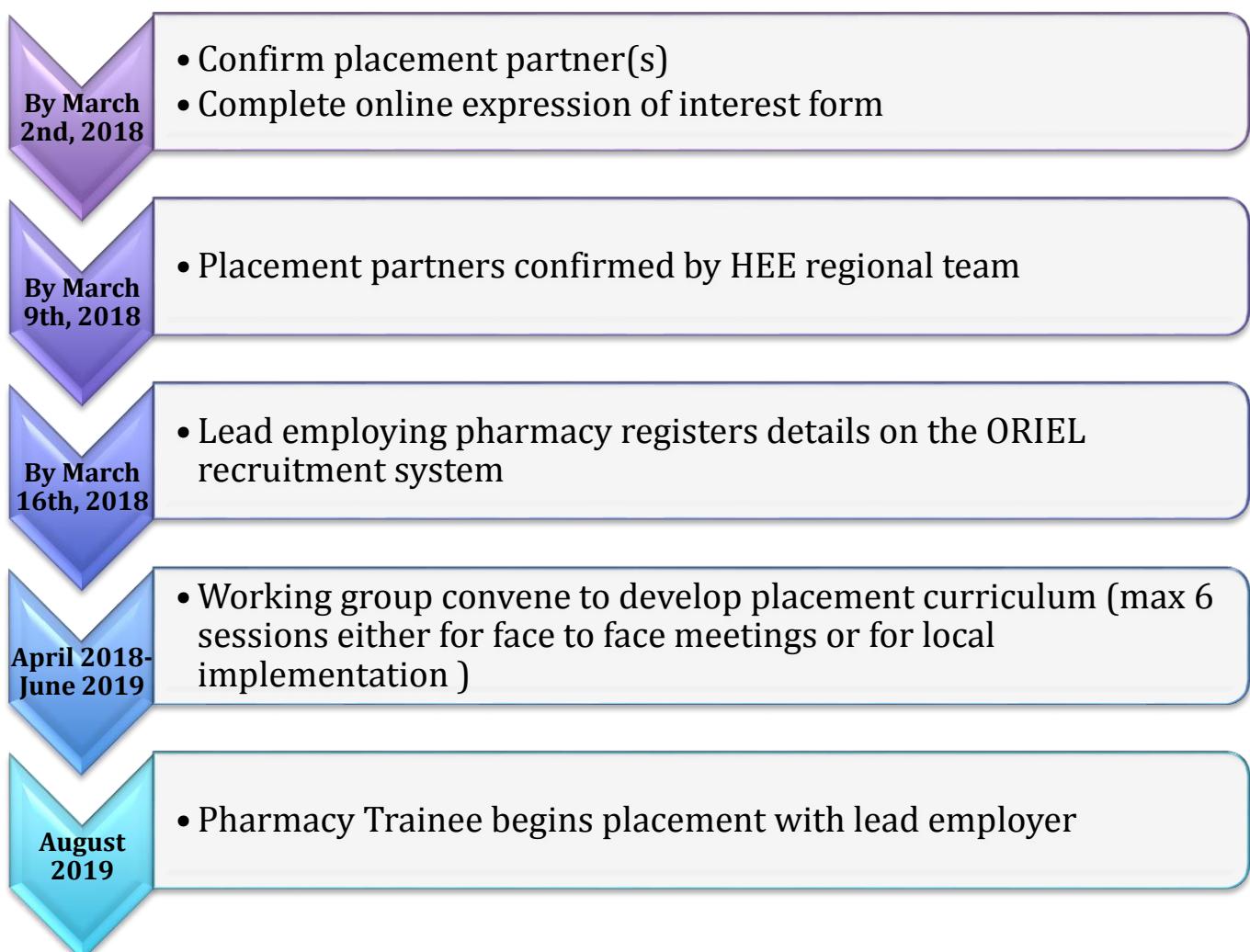
We have secured funding through the Pharmacy Integration Fund to develop pre-registration placements of 3-6 months in general practice. We would like to work with you to develop these longer placements as part of the pre-registration training year, linked to the wider Primary Care strategy.

- Funding has been secured for preregistration pharmacist training that would take place in the academic year 2019/20
- As pre-registration pharmacist recruitment is now undertaken centrally, the process of collecting details of available programmes for 19/20 is currently underway and will run until **March 16th 2018**. This means that we would **need to identify placement partnerships** i.e. GP practices that would take 3-6 month pre-reg placements plus their respective pharmacy partners for the other 6-9 months **by March 2nd**, to allow time to confirm details before the closing date
- We would wish to place trainees in practices that have a practice pharmacist

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- Trainees would be recruited into places via the National Pre-registration Pharmacist Recruitment Scheme with selection centres being held in September 2018
- A fully-formed curriculum is not yet required, simply a firm expression of interest and the name/address of your GP partner
- The pharmacy will remain as the lead employer for the trainee
- You may wish to consider the numbers of trainees you employ. For example, you may employ two trainees instead of one, with each trainee rotating between the practice and the pharmacy every 3 months. Grants for trainees can be accessed via application to NHSCB in the usual way.
- Community pharmacies may wish to partner with both general practice and hospital pharmacies for a multi-site programme
- A working group of placement providers to develop a suitable curriculum will be established, and is currently seeking members to attend face to face planning sessions. However, all placement providers will be expected to support curriculum delivery either at the design or implementation phase, or both. Funding will be provided per provider as per the funding table below.
- The exact placement structure will be informed by the working group, but is likely to consist of either block placements or a blended approach of fixed days per week in each setting, depending on the availability of the practice pharmacist to supervise the trainee

Timelines



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Funding Available

Placement Provider	Nature of Funding	Value of Funding
All (GP/Community/Hospital)	Support to develop and implement a placement curriculum	£1400 per placement provider
General Practice	Pharmacy trainee placement support fee (payable to placement provider for educational support)	£7000 pro rata per annum, per practice, per trainee
Community Pharmacy	Pharmacy pre-registration trainee grant for employers providing pre-registration training	As per Drug Tariff Part XIII- Payments in respect of Pre-registration Trainees
Hospital Pharmacy	Salary support to recruit additional trainees for inclusion in this programme	As per current local arrangements via application to regional HEE teams

Next Steps

Expressions of interest are sought **by March 2nd 2018**.

We would welcome expressions of interest from:

- Interested parties for **membership of the face to face working group** (open only to those that are willing to support trainee placements); please email Atif.Shamim@hee.nhs.uk to express your interest
- Sites **willing to support trainee placements in 2019/20**; please complete the form by clicking on the link: [Expression of interest form](#)
- Any existing partnerships with GP surgeries are welcomed, but we would also like you to work with your CEPN leads and hospital colleagues to create new partnerships by identifying local interest through your respective networks and pairing up those in close proximity to one another.

For any further queries please contact Atif.Shamim@hee.nhs.uk