

Firearms marker

Practices may be aware that as of 6 July 2022, a new firearms marker has been introduced, aimed at providing alerts to GPs during both the application process and the lifecycle of the issued licence. This will integrate with EMIS and SystemOne systems (Vision to follow) to prospectively flag patient coded as holding a firearms licence.

Please be aware that there is ongoing national dialogue around this, and we will provide a full update just as soon as we are able.

Tees Valley ICP stakeholder event for the Flexible Apprenticeship Scheme

NENC ICB are planning a Tees Valley ICP stakeholder event for the Flexible Apprenticeship Scheme. The aim of this event is to provide stakeholders with information about the scheme, how it is being utilised within North East North Cumbria ICB, and how organisations could participate in or benefit from the scheme.

The ICB/ICP would also like to hear your thoughts about; further utilisation of the scheme which could support development of your workforce, innovative placement schemes, Health Sector apprenticeships, or any other ideas you may have regarding flexible apprenticeships.

They have provided some information about the Flexible Apprenticeship Scheme below:

The North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Flexible Apprenticeship Scheme (FAS) was created by the Integrated Care Board (ICB), in partnership with NHS North of England Commissioning Support (NECS). It is specifically designed to support employers by directly employing and managing individuals who wish to undertake an apprenticeship. The distinctive feature of this model is that it is the FAS acts as the apprentice's employer, placing them with a host employer and coordinating their training through approved training providers. This allows the host employer to enjoy the advantages of an apprentice whilst alleviating the administrative overhead.

Our scheme is open to all health and Social Care employers across the NENC NHS, Care, independent and voluntary sectors. Many smaller and medium-sized employers find the Flexible Apprenticeship Scheme model can be helpful as they often do not have the time to dedicate to taking on an apprentice and all the management responsibilities that come with it. It also allows them to reduce the risk to their organisation in case they are not able to sustain the placement, or the apprentice is not suitable for any reason.

Larger employers can also benefit from the model as it allows them to use their resources as effectively as possible, helping to ensure that they have the range and numbers of staff they need.

The Stakeholder Event will take place on August 4th 2022 from 3:30pm – 4:30pm via Teams – invite to follow.

Staff Wellbeing Hub - Cost of living resources for staff from NHS national Health & Wellbeing team

The national Health & Wellbeing team have responded to staff queries on the impact of cost-of-living increases and shared various resource offers available. There is a dedicated telephone support line, WhatsApp and online chat for NHS colleagues who need support and advice with their finances which is offered by the Money Helper Service – details can be found [here](#). Practical advice and signposting on finance can be found [here](#).

Rebuild General Practice Toolkit – Mythbusting!

We are pleased to share some new content from the Rebuild General Practice campaign. Myths and misconceptions about General Practice, GPs and practice staff have become common, damaging relationships with patients. We all know that GPs want to provide patients with the best care possible, so Rebuild General Practice is setting the record straight!

We need your help to bust General Practice myths and communicate the reality of the GP workforce crisis and workload pressures.

Everything you need to take part in this activation can be found in the LMC Toolkit [MYTH BUSTING](#) folder:

1. [Template email to GP surgeries](#)
2. [Myth-busting toolkit: 'How To Share' guide including links to assets and infographics](#)

GPC GP Bulletin & Informal Messaging

Read the latest GP bulletin (England) [here](#)

Read GPC Chair twitter page: [Dr Farah Jameel \(@DrFJameel\) / Twitter](#)

Read BMA twitter page: [General Practice \(@BMA_GP\) / Twitter](#)

Read more about the work of the [GPC England](#)

Read practical guidance for [GP practices](#)

Mental health and wellbeing – looking after you and your practice team

Primary care coaching - communications toolkit

In these pressured times it is absolutely critical you look after yourself and your teams. NHSE/I have launched their new communications toolkit, supporting promotion of the NHS England and NHS Improvement Looking After You national coaching service: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aS8-sTH1W9qv49d9Tq3hhwg9jJZZ5MFs>

Within the toolkit you will find social media images, banners, bulletin copy, website copy and quotes from those who have used the free services. There has been some excellent feedback from those who have accessed coaching, but we are aware there are still many colleagues who are not aware of this available support. It remains a difficult time for the workforce, so we would appreciate any help you are able to give to share these offers.

A member of their team would also be happy to come to meetings or events within regions and systems to talk about the offers: england.lookingafteryou@nhs.net

A coaching landing page hosts all three offers: www.england.nhs.uk/lookingafteryou. Recognising that frontline primary care colleagues involved in the delivery of primary care services, both clinical and non-clinical, continue to face many challenges, NHSE have developed three coaching offers for the workforce:

- 1) Looking After You Too – coaching about you and your wellbeing
- 2) Looking After Your Team – coaching about you and your team
- 3) Looking After Your Career - coaching about you and your career

The coaches are highly skilled and experienced, and all coaching is free and confidential. The sessions are delivered virtually, preferably via a video platform, but telephone appointments are also available. Thousands of people have booked sessions and given positive feedback on their experience.

GP appraisal leads and GP tutors offer of telephone support conversations remain for any GP who feels they would like to talk through any aspect of their professional/personal life that has been affected by Covid. To organise a telephone support conversation, either with the appraisal lead or with a GP tutor, please contact the appraisal team, or email di.jelley@nhs.net

Crisis Coaching & Mentoring: [Coaching and mentoring sessions are available now](#) for all NHS and Health and Social Care leaders. Delivered by The Centre for Army Leadership and Meyler Campbell Coaching, these sessions are designed to support with the huge pressure on the ability of the NHS to deliver safe, high-quality care, sharpen focus on meeting the core needs of staff, ensuring wellbeing and sustained motivation to deal with this rapidly changing situation. The intervention will give leaders an understanding of crisis leadership that goes beyond what is necessary and focused on engagement and motivation through Covid19. Further information and how to register [see link here](#)

CLMC continue to offer [wellbeing services via Validium](#) for **ALL working in general practice within Tees** (including locums). We understand that a number of staff have accessed this confidential service and it has been well received.

The BMA's [report on the mental health and wellbeing of the medical workforce](#) which sets out ten recommendations to be addressed to protect staff during the pandemic and in the future. The BMA is here for you and offers supportive [wellbeing services](#) which include face-to-face counselling. You can access one-off support or, after triage, a structured course of up to six face-to-face counselling sessions. Call 0330 123 1245 today or [visit the website](#) for more information.

For all other support, speak to a BMA adviser on [0300 123 1233](tel:03001231233) or email support@bma.org.uk

[Read more about doctors' wellbeing during the pandemic](#) and on Twitter [@TheBMA](#)

There is also a wealth of [ICS provided support through their North East Support Hub](#) Telephone: 0191 223 2030 or Email: Hubstheword@cntw.nhs.uk or via online form on the website

NHSEI have recently developed a new [communications toolkit](#) and resources to help promote their offers to the workforce. The toolkit has an overview of each offer, including bulletin, email and social media copy, and links to some case studies and posters.