

Main points from Rapid Action Practice Learning Oversight Group (RAG) Meeting on 15/09/20

- One of the recommendations from the commissioned report produced for Scottish Government was for the formation of a national strategic group to have oversight of NMAHP student placement challenges and possible solutions taking place across Scotland. The purpose of RAG is to co-ordinate, be a conduit for representatives to bring information, share good practice and avoid duplication with a view to establishing a shared understanding of what is happening, any issues arising and to take any national action that is required.
- Additional recommendation was added to commissioned report, namely: HEIs and placement providers understand and share concerns about going into placements, particularly those who have previously been shielded and new cohorts. RAG would appreciate any feedback from HEIs that they receive from students regarding concerns.
- There is a commitment to do everything that can be done to keep placements going, even if there are resurgences of COVID-19 at national and local levels. It is recognised that HEIs and FECs may require to take local decisions in partnership with practice placement providers at some points depending on the situation.
- Scottish Government, CNOD discussing with colleagues in workforce directorate around NHS life assurance provision for HNC students who are currently not covered by this arrangement resulting in a lack of parity for FEC students.
- Scottish Government to consider and will respond to a question raised about cover for students who have to go outside of Scotland for placements (orthoptic and PNO students) and how this will be managed.
- NMAHP Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Students' Return to Supernumerary Practice Learning Experiences – applying the COVID-19 Occupational Risk Assessment Guidance now published and available at:
<http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/media/CLT/ResourceUploads/4100413/d11fd983-84e4-4639-85be-06fa7667a70e.pdf>
- Council of Deans collating NMAHP placement data needs and it is anticipated this will be available by end of September 2020.
- Continue local partnership working between HEIs and practice partners to identify placement 'pinch points' and trying to maximise solutions locally for nursing and midwifery students
- AHPFS working with Recovery Group to lead on gathering number of practice-based learning hours that each programme and each profession currently include in their programmes and what percentage of hours could be achieved via simulation
- Work being undertaken on UK wide basis with Council of Deans and AHPFS around a statement on reduction of practice-based learning hours and it is anticipated it will be available in October
- Community placements are a particular challenge across nursing, midwifery and AHP.NES will refresh and reissue national agreement for community placements. CNOD to continue working with SG Workforce and SG Primary Care on accessing GPN placements.