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**Sent on behalf of Rapid Action  
Placement Oversight Group (RAPOG)**

Date: 5 October 2020  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Enquiries to:  
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Dear Colleagues

Following the publication of The Scottish Government NES commissioned '*Provision of NMAHP Placements in the 2020-21 Academic Session*' a Rapid Action Placement Oversight Group (RAPOG) was established in line with the recommendation of the report, namely to "Set up a small rapid action group chaired by Scottish Government and NHS Education for Scotland with Council of Deans Scotland to co-develop mitigating actions for placement capacity management and to advise Scottish Government in the event of a potential second wave of COVID-19." The group first met on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and will meet monthly to have national oversight of NMAHP practice learning experiences considering the potential risk of students not being able to complete their programmes on time due to COVID-19. Scottish Government have asked NHS Education for Scotland to chair the group.

Following the September meeting the attached paper was developed outlining the principles required in order to maintain practice learning for all NMAHP students during the academic year 2020-21 and beyond if required.

The purpose of the attached paper is to advise practice learning providers working in partnership with their university partners on expectations for practice learning experience as the COVID-19 situation evolves and to serve as a reminder that all healthcare professions currently have a shortage of practice experiences due to COVID-19.



Chair: David Garbutt  
Chief Executive: Stewart Irvine

As you are all aware there is the risk that students will not gain the practice learning experiences needed nor the hours required which has implications for future workforce supply.

Therefore, practice learning providers working in partnership with their university partners are urged to explore all potential solutions to maximise student allocation numbers, explore adaptations required and to look for new and different models to maintain practice learning and fulfil future workforce planning commitments. We all have to work together to achieve this goal and hope the placement principle paper attached is supportive of the tremendous efforts we know are already taking place across the country to ensure our NMAHP students complete their programmes in a timely manner in the coming year and beyond.

Please circulate to your respective networks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Wilson".

Karen Wilson

*Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions/Chair of Rapid Action Placement Oversight Group*

