

KSS Trainee Engagement Forum Minutes

29th November 2022, 12.30 – 13.30

Chair: Charlotte Wyeth (CWy)

Dean: Jo Szram (JS)

Notetaker: Harvey Booker (HB)

Attendees from KSS:

Jo Szram (JS), Jon Nodding (JN), Marc Terry (MT), Gordon Ferns (GF - BSMS), Vikki Bates (VB), Debbie Robertson (DR), Kate Cheer (KC), Harvey Booker (HB - notetaker)

Items

12:30-13:00 Trainees only

Key introductory points:

- CWy introduced herself and explained/reminded attendees of the purpose of the monthly forum: to improve connection and engagement between postgraduate medical trainees and the deanery.
- An email will be sent shortly asking for a co-chair to help CWy; if you are interested, please follow the instructions in the email.
- The link to the TEF webpage with contact details and other information is <https://kss.hee.nhs.uk/resources-information/trainee-engagement-forum/>

The following points/questions were raised by trainees:

1. Trainees having long commutes to placements, for example from Kent to Brighton. If the placement is for 6 months only, some people feel that it isn't worth finding accommodation in the placement area. However, this might instead mean long commuting times. Is there a long-term solution to this?
2. Some trainees were receiving placement notifications and work schedules at very short notice. This can cause problems, particularly with finding accommodation. One of the attendees was starting on 5th January 2023 but had still not received any communications.
3. Clarification was requested on the process for taking maternity leave at the start of a posting.
4. Re. expenses on study leave, in particular travel, were there any plans to increase the mileage allowance and cover car parking charges? Using the railway option could be more costly for employers than driving.
5. Re. the capping of financial support for ALS courses, are Anaesthetics/ACCS trainees exempt from the £275 cap?
6. Is there a trainee forum for Psychiatry, that new starters could join?
7. A question was raised about the process for employing trusts to obtain references prior to a new posting. Please can this be clarified.
8. Is it possible to advise where a trainee's placements would be for next 3 years, as this would help with finding accommodation, and is there information on relocation expenses?
9. Is it usual in KSS to have switchovers in October rather than August? This can be challenging for people with school age children.

13:00-13:30 Deanery team joins meeting and gives responses:

1. Trainees having long commutes to placements – Concerns should normally be taken up with the Training Programme Director (TPD), but if the trainee is not satisfied with the TPD's response they should raise this with Marc Terry, Senior Business and Education Manager (HET), and Jo Szram, Postgraduate Dean for KSS. Email addresses provided in the Teams chat.
2. Trainees receiving new placement information and work schedules at too short notice – Please contact MT to look into this, as minimum notification periods are written into employer contracts. Trainees should also report this issue to their Guardian of Safe Working.
3. Clarification on the process for taking maternity leave at the start of a posting – Please email Marc Terry, as there is a process for this. Also, JS highlighted that a valuable resource for returning trainees is the Supported Return to Training (SRTT) programme. Please make use of this.
4. Re. expenses on study leave, are there any plans to increase the mileage allowance and cover car parking cost? The mileage allowance is part of a national agreement so there's a limit to what we can do in KSS, however JS will look into this as well as the parking question.
5. Re. financial support for ALS courses, are Anaesthetics /ACCS trainees exempt from the £275 cap? These courses are cheaper when bought in bulk, e.g., for Foundation trainees, so currently the cap applies specifically to them. For specialty trainees, JS has been signing these off above the cap, but we can't guarantee this will continue indefinitely. However, if there is a requirement for you to take the ALS course, please ensure you do so.
6. Is there a trainee forum for Psychiatry that new trainees can join, and if not could one be set up? JS advised that the School Board includes trainee reps. MT would ask the Psychiatry team to send out reps' contact details to new starters, so they can get in touch. Trainees could also contact the Head of School, Martin Schmidt, to discuss this.
7. How do employing trusts obtain references prior to a new posting, and how quickly do they need to be presented? References are requested and received by the employing trust via the Oriel system, so there's no need for trainees to get further involved in this process.
8. Is it possible to advise where a trainee's placements will be for the next 3 years? MT advised that this is not usually possible and provided a link to the KSS webpage for the relocation process.
9. Is it usual in KSS to have switchovers in October rather than August? JS - This depends on specialty but switchovers in October are common in KSS.

Next meeting: scheduled for Thurs 15th Dec 2022, 12:30 – 13:30