

Press Release: Popular West London CCG Network Learning Forum Forges Ahead with 3500 hours of Online Primary Care Learning during Covid

26 June, 2020

In conjunction with our specialist teams, West London CCG Training Hub has been coordinating weekly focused interactive Primary Care webinars to meet the rapid pace of change in NHS services over the pandemic period.

We have converted our normal monthly face-to-face programme into a live online teams event with an opportunity for Primary Care to engage with Questions & Answers and focussing on an audience of over 300 GPs, as well as allied health care professionals in Northwest London and beyond.

The programme has clocked a staggering 3500 hours of education to primary care clinicians in 10 weeks, with an additional unknown number of hours for webinars uploaded to Health Education England's (HEE) Learning Hub, where WLCCG Training Hub resources have proved very popular. Feedback shows an average score of 9.2/10 for the quality of the training programme. Attendees report more than 8 high impact, take-home points per session, which equates to 28700 quick improvements to day-to-day clinic practice.

The webinar format ensures Clinicians' skills are updated and that they are in touch with essential and cutting edge clinical knowledge and medical thinking, as well as service changes to improve patient care. Dr Yasmin Razak, Chair of the programme and RIPEN Lead, commented, "this is of particular importance during the Covid pandemic as face-to-face patient assessments are limited and services running at reduced capacity while staff are redeployed meet the challenges of Covid-19. Our core team have rapidly adapted both new technology and their roles for training purposes in the Pandemic".

Working alongside secondary care has improved our integrated care approach as an STP. Dr Razak has been joined by Dr Sarah Elkin, Clinical Director Integrated care ICNT & SRO for Respiratory Medicine, to co-chair the training programme and bring together the best elements of all of our systems. "The outputs at the end of each session attached to the presentation slides are a Q&A summary, a video of the webinar, STP-wide service updates and a one-page artistic graphic highlighting key messages", said Dr Elkin. These are published directly to participants using Microsoft Teams.

WLCCG Chair & GP, Dr Andrew Steeden, commented on the particular success of the programme lying "in the commitment of the Training Hub team to work with Primary Care & be responsive to its needs".

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Additional Notes

The Learning Hub is a new digital platform that provides easy access to a wide range of education and training resources for the health and care workforce. The Learning Hub launched with core functionality on 29 May 2020 and new features will be released regularly, in line with the plan for the functionality of the Beta phase.

The audience for the WLCCG Training Hub is the full range of Primary Care Clinical and non-Clinical Professionals, including GPs, Community Pharmacists, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses and Practice Managers in Northwest London and beyond. This broad engagement across clinical boundaries has helped foster further innovation.

To date the programme has covered Hot-Hub webinars, translating important key Respiratory Covid update documents into simple, practical action points for Primary Care, a Long-term Condition Management series addressing pragmatic approaches to managing Hypertension, Diabetes and Asthma, NWL Innovations in the Pandemic and important Musculoskeletal, Ophthalmology, Dermatology and Paediatric pointers.

Commenting on the impact of the programme on NHS colleagues Dr Elkin said, “through this online Network Learning Forum, our GPs report feeling supported, connected and able to get their specialist questions answered for their patients across the whole STP”. This type of engagement is seen as critical in staff retention.

The webinars are available on NHS MS Stream and HEE’s Learning Hub for NHS, health and care staff: (<https://www.learninghub.nhs.uk/>).