

FIRST CONTACT PRACTITIONER (FCP) BULLETIN - LONDON Issue 1: January 2024

Welcome to the first edition of the First contact practitioner (FCP) bulletin for London. Over the next year, we will bring you updates highlighting the latest for the FCP roles including the roadmap, as well as helpful tips, useful resources, and answer frequently asked questions.

Key updates this edition include:

- FCP roadmap to practice – update from NHS England (August 2023)
- Multi-professional educator groups
- Frequently asked questions

We hope you find this bulletin helpful. Please do email us with your FCP related queries: Nadia.bashir@nhs.net sarah.friel@nhs.net

FCP roadmap to practice update

FCP roadmap to practice - Update from NHS England (August 2023) [Roadmap Verification Changes | Health Education England \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#)

The FCP 'roadmap to practice' comprises of two stages that need to be completed to showcase the competencies of Paramedics, Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists (OT), Dieticians and Podiatrist working in first contact roles in Primary care. This ensures their eligibility for the additional role reimbursement scheme (ARRS) and compliance with Care Quality Commission (CQC) [GP mythbuster 106: Staff not directly employed by a GP practice - Care Quality Commission \(cqcc.org.uk\)](#).

The changes mean a more standardised Roadmap process and ensures quality assurance and governance measures.

The key changes are:

- Closing of the **independent portfolio route** in April 2024. For those currently doing the independent portfolio route - who have a FCP roadmap supervisor to sign off their stage 1 and 2 – this pathway will be closed end of April 2024.
- In place of this is will be a new **supported portfolio route** via a higher education institute (HEI) and will be funded by NHS England Workforce, Training and Education team (NHSE WTE) [Education Providers of FCP training | Health Education England \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#). This route will run alongside existing formal taught route FCP courses. Anyone yet to start the roadmap is advised to apply for either the supported or taught FCP courses.

- A digital badge to recognise an FCP level of practice will no longer be awarded, nor will there be a directory of FCPs. Once the Roadmap is completed, it is for the individual to keep and have accessible for employers and CQC to be able to check.
- The specific two-day roadmap supervisor's course in London is no longer available. A multi-professional supervisor course is available in London for non-GP professionals involved in or interested in supervision. For further details please contact your training hub. GP's who are already educational supervisors, can view the e-learning for health (e-lh) roadmap supervisor 1 hour top up video: [Top up Training Video for GP Educational Supervisors - elearning for healthcare \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](#)
- Stage 3 of the roadmap (the route from FCP to ACP) has been removed.

If you are new to the roadmap or need to re-familiarise yourself with the process see the useful resources links below

Useful resources

[Roadmaps to Practice | Health Education England \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#)

[SELWDH - First Contact Practitioners \(traininghub-git-training-session-admin-revamp-selwdh.vercel.app\)](#)

Multi-professional educator groups

FCP supervisors should join their local **multi-professional educator groups**. The aim of these groups is to provide support and educational material for educators/supervisors across all roles in primary care. These groups can be an invaluable resource in the ongoing development of your role in supervision. It also allows the opportunity for supervisor colleagues to meet, connect and share good practice, assisting you through your roles as an educator/supervisor.

The multiprofessional groups across London are holding great learning events and opportunities. Contact your local training hub for more details about what activities are happening in your patch!

London area:	Training hub contact email:
North East London (neltraininghub.co.uk)	nelondonicb.traininghub@nhs.net
North West London Home - NW London Training Hub	nwl.traininghub@nhs.net
North Central London NCL Training Hub	nclcb.approvedlearningenvironments@nhs.net
South East London SELWDH · Home	info@seltraininghub.co.uk
SWL Home SWL Training Hubs	office.swlth@nhs.net

Frequently asked questions

Does stage 1 need to be completed before the trainee FCP can start working primary care?

Ideally Stage 1 needs to be completed prior to employment in Primary care. CQC have stipulated this, but it is still a grey area. Employers can use their judgement based on the individual trainee FCP and their academic background and if the appropriate supervision is provided (For example, if a paramedic had already been working in primary care but now intends to complete the roadmap and be eligible for the ARRS funding it would be reasonable for them to complete stage 1 while continuing to work in primary care with supervision).

What happens if a trainee FCP has started the independent route but will not have finished by start of April 2024?

If the trainee is clearly progressing through the roadmap and needs for example, an extra month to complete the roadmap, there should not be any issue if. However, if it becomes apparent completion will need several months after April, it is recommended that they considering applying now for the supported/taught FCP routes.

Our practice/Primary care Network (PCN) is thinking about employing an FCP, how will the new changes affect us?

If you are employing someone who has already completed the roadmap, as per the CQC requirement, ensure you have seen the documents evidencing this. If you are employing a physio/paramedic/dietician/podiatrist/OT as an FCP under the ARRS who has not completed the roadmap, you will be employing them as a trainee FCP

and advised that they need to apply for the HEI taught route/supported route as soon as possible.

I am doing/have done a master's or am doing an Advance care practice (ACP) master's, do I need to still do the FCP roadmap.

Individuals employed specifically into the ARRS FCP roles are required to complete the roadmap. This is to ensure the standardisation of practice for this role.

Individuals employed in other roles such as an ACP will need to fulfil the job description as outlined by the Network contract DES. Having a master's may not directly align with being a FCP in primary care. However, you may be able to use evidence from your previous experiences/master's level learning if it covers any of the key skills and attributes set out in the roadmap.

