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Radiographer Academy all set to open doors

An innovative approach to training radiographers to report images via a 'tailor-made' Academy has recruited its first wave of trainees and is all set for course commencement at the end of September.

The Radiographer Academy has been developed by the Working Together Partnership Vanguard and supported by Health Education England (Yorks & Humber). This is in response to the escalating demand for radiology services which is increasingly outstripping the ability of the current workforce to deliver the service.

James Marcus, an experienced Clinical Radiographer who works for Sheffield Hallam University will be joining the multi-disciplinary team to deliver the course, which is linked to an established course delivered by Bradford University. Attendees have signed up from the Working Together footprint and further afield in Yorkshire and the Humber. The course content will cover muscular-skeletal plain film reporting in the first instance.

Dr Des Breen, Working Together Partnership Vanguard Medical Director said: "Across the region, training radiographers to report has been something that has been happening for some time but on an ad-hoc basis. The Working Together Academy is using a co-ordinated approach and creating a single dedicated facility with state of the art workstations linked to a hospital's radiology images. Each trainee will be released from clinical duties for a

Trusts agree to align Board meetings to facilitate quicker joint decision-making

Trust Chairs and CEOs have agreed to better align the region's Board meetings in a bid to make shared decision-making easier. Currently the partner Trusts meet across the whole period in the month from the first week to the last. The proposal is for all Trusts (with the exception of Mid-Yorks who have aligned their meetings to match those of their West Yorkshire colleagues) to move to having their Board meetings in the fourth or last week of the month. It is likely that this will come into place in the new financial year.

Working Together Programme Directors Janette Watkins said: "As partnership working increases, so too does the requirement for decisions on the same issues to be made by all the Trusts, and as the legal entities, decisions must be made by our Trust Boards.

"The Committees in Common structure which will come into place late 2017 for Working Together Trusts does see the Trust Boards delegate some authority to the Chair and CEOs to make decisions in a shared environment. However the Chairs are very clear that they still wish to have the support of their Boards, and

considerable time over a nine month period and will be trained as one cohort, which has considerable advantages in terms of maximising teaching potential and minimising the impact on service. It will also ensure the standardisation and transferability of skills within a defined set of competencies. Once successful, this model is replicable further afield"

moving to a schedule where the Boards all meet in the same week will enable decisions to be made much quicker, and therefore partnership working to move at a quicker pace."

Project Update: Children's surgery and anaesthesia

In July 2017 the Joint Clinical Commissioning Group Committee made its first service change decision to implement changes to the delivery of children's surgery and anaesthesia across the patch. The project is jointly managed by the Working Together Partnership Vanguard (made up of the seven acute trusts in the area) and Commissioners Working Together (made up of the Clinical Commissioning Groups covering the same geographical area).

Work continues to ensure that any required service changes come into place in quarter four and additional clinical leadership has been secured to help keep the momentum. Trusts have now self-assessed themselves against the standards that agreed by all partners. These include delivering a high quality, safe service for patients, with assessments in-line with what was anticipated. A team of senior consultants from the trusts is now being brought together in order to conduct reviews to independently corroborate the assessments

New Acute Paediatrics Managed Clinical Network gets underway

A new Managed Clinical Network (MCN), established to increase joined up working and decision-making in Acute Paediatrics has now had two successful meetings.

The second meeting saw newly appointed Clinical Lead Dr Nicola Jay take the reins. Dr Jay is a Consultant Paediatrician in Respiratory and Allergy at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust.

In addition to launching the MCN the workstream have also created a steering group to meet regularly and do the business of the MCN and have started to develop a workplan.

MCNs are established by the Working Together Partnership for each workstream. They enable the clinicians from partner trusts to effectively work together and lead the developments and recommendations for their field.

For more information about the Working Together Partnership contact

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