

PRACTICE SUPPORT

We welcome requests from our practices for staff support and will accommodate these requests, where possible.

If you have any requests, please contact joanepetch@nhs.net

VACANCIES

Durham Dales Health Federation are currently advertising for a Salaried GP.

Are you looking for an engaging, challenging and rewarding opportunity?

Are you a caring, motivated and dynamic healthcare professional?

Do you enjoy working directly with people, dealing with a variety of needs and challenges, as well as delivering actual benefits and making a true difference to the lives of entire communities?

Would you like to be part of Durham Dales Health Federation, a Federation of 12 practices within the Durham Dales Locality working together to provide high quality primary healthcare services?

We have a number of excellent opportunities available for enthusiastic and motivated people to join our team. Working within this team, you would have the opportunity to work alongside GP Practices within the Durham Dales locality.

If this sounds like the next step in your career, we would love to hear from you,
team@ddhf.co.uk

VISION

To be a federation of GP medical practices working together to provide high quality cost effective primary healthcare services.

MISSION

To ensure, maintain and develop the provision of General Practice in the rural and urban communities of Durham Dales.

VALUES

- Equity of provision
- Supportive, caring and inclusive
- Performance oriented
- Proactive

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www.ddhf.co.uk



CLINICAL TEAM UPDATE

This Autumn has seen a period of consolidation and increasing support for our member practices.

Our 7 Community Nurse Practitioners and 2 Healthcare Assistants, supported by 2 Emergency Care Practitioners are to be joined by 2 Portfolio Nurses in December, working across the VAWAS and Extended Primary Care Access services.

We now provide support for our frail patient group from 8am to 8pm weekdays and 10am to 6pm at weekends, alongside acute visits and clinics in the hubs in association with the Extended Primary Care Access Team.

Using the TAPS process we have been able to consolidate our relationships with the wider patient support network, including District Nurses, Intermediate Care Plus, social care providers, the voluntary sector and secondary care as well as the care homes that we visit on a daily basis.

Our specialised use of individualised Emergency Health Care Plans has served to reduce unnecessary admissions from care homes in the period from May to August. The EHCPS have enabled frail patients to be cared for in their home environment until the end of their natural life. Ten admissions have been directly averted at weekends for patients with EHCPS. This work continues along with acute visits to support patient choice and best interest decisions in the

care home and community environment.

Our Care Home Flu vaccination campaign was completed in a timely and efficient manner by November with 694 vaccinations delivered.

We are currently working with care homes to reduce antibiotic prescribing and unnecessary samples sent to the practices. We are also working with Tees Esk & Wear Valley Care home liaison team to create a one-stop care home mental health referral process.

We continue to provide support for District Nurses to provide a community COPD referral Service and our HCAs are providing a diabetes education course and community dementia reviews.

Along with our Health Coordinators, we provide a follow up service for discharge liaison and the opportunity for GPs and other Health Professionals to book proactive visits for the frail elderly at risk of admission in the community.

We are constantly reviewing and updating the service, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any feedback/suggestions via the DDHF Office or via your TAPS Meetings.

Clare Edwards
Clinical Team Lead

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

ANN LIIVAND
Administrator

I have been in my current post with DDHF for about three weeks. I work as an Admin Support Worker in Pinfold Medical Centre in the mornings and as an Administrator at DDHF in the afternoons. Prior to joining the team I was a Probation Officer for over 30 years and was based at the Crown Court in Durham. I took early retirement last month but I am not ready to 'hang up my boots' just yet. I enjoy working with the public and helping NHS users to access the right services as quickly and as easily as possible.

JULIE HUNTRODS
Community Nurse Practitioner

I have worked in the NHS from 1993 to 1999, then returned 2007 to current date. My background includes acute medicine/ respiratory, community based nursing and most recently 2 years as a Community Matron. I'm an independent nurse prescriber with advanced clinical skills. I look forward to working with the Community Wellness Team and member practices in the future.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

DOCTORS are wishing patients not just a happy festive period but a healthy one too by sending special Christmas cards.

More than 2,000 cards have been sent out to older and at risk patients in the Durham Dales to try and keep them safe as the winter weather bites.

Nearly 1,500 cards have gone to the most at risk community patients and 770 to those in care homes and are also available to pick up at GP practices.

The cards detail where to get help and advice over the winter months, including during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Throughout the festivities this Christmas season it is still important to look after your health and well-being. If you can, make time to ensure that older neighbours and relatives are safe and warm too.



X-PERTHEALTH DIABETES PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT COURSE

I attended a course back in July to become a training facilitator in the X-PERTHEALTH Diabetes Prevention and Management Course. It is a lot of work and I am still finding my feet as I have to teach patients which I have never done before.

There are 6 sessions to teach and I am delivering two sessions a week at the present time.

We only started to deliver courses in November. The sessions cover: what is Diabetes?, Nutrition for Health, Carbohydrate awareness, food labels, physical activity, possible complications, and are you an 'X-PERT'.

Rachel McClennan
Health Care Assistant

TRAINING UPDATE

The training has continued to be well attended through 2017. We have been working with the Durham Dales Planning Group to develop the agenda for 2018 which will include training for clinicians. Dr Dendle, The Weardale Practice has provided valuable input into the planning of the clinical agenda. If you would like to become part of the Planning Group and put forward your ideas please contact joannepetch@nhs.net. All training suggestions are welcomed.

As part of your succession planning and team development we continue to have access to funding for diabetes training. There are many topics and courses with funding available.

Please contact

Jo Petch at joannepetch@nhs.net to discuss further.

- Dates for your diary 2018
- Wednesday 17th January**
Safeguarding Children Levels 1,2 & 3
- Wednesday 21st February**
Diabetes – GPs, NPs and PNs
Dysphagia – GPs and NPs
ECG Training – HCAs, PNs –
(maximum 20 places)
Care Navigation tbc – Admin
- Thursday 22nd March**
Collaborative Time Out
Speed Dating – Care Navigation
Services – tbc
- Wednesday 18th April**
In House Training