

February 2026 | Edition 225

NPAG News

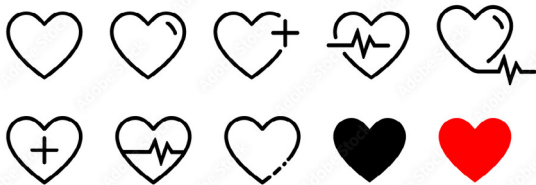
Inside this edition

- News in brief
- Celebrating connections with Trusts, members and commercial partners
- Facilitator in Focus: Trevor Garcia
- Theatres & Decontamination Conference 2026
- Best Value Groups and training workshops
- NPAG Network

and much more...

npag.org.uk

Welcome to NPAG News for February



Welcome to the February edition of NPAG News, our first newsletter of 2026!

We hope everyone has had a great start to the year. February is often described as a short, transitional month. It sees the quiet shift from winter towards spring.

It is, of course, also known as a time of love and hope, especially as the days grow noticeably longer. At NPAG, we are starting February on a very positive note as we acquire a new contact database that will support our marketing, allowing us to reach out to some of the harder-to-reach organisations and establish relationships with Trusts we may not have connected with previously.

We are also in the process of planning our Annual Conferences. First up will be Theatres and Decontamination, which is proving increasingly popular, this year taking place at the Radisson Blu Stansted Hotel on 19th May. This will be followed by the Clinical Engineering Conference in September, when we return to the same venue.

Partnerships and connections play a key role in everything we do – from our own Associates, Member Trusts, our Sponsors and exhibitors to government and non-commercial organisations. In this edition we take a look at the way we work with these partners and how we strive to provide value to them through our meetings, events and workshops, with the mutual aim of enhancing and improving NHS services.

Plus, we include all usual content on our groups, the NPAG Network and training workshops.

Have a great month!



Being part of the NPAG Facilities South BVG has been a real support in my role. It's given me a trusted network of colleagues to share ideas, best practice, and practical solutions to everyday challenges. The discussions have helped me stay ahead of changes and find innovative ways to improve our services, and the relationships built through the group continue to provide valuable insight and encouragement.

Inside This Edition

News in Brief	3
Partnering for Progress	4
National Partnerships	5
Celebrating our Commercial Partnerships	6-7
Theatres & Decontamination Conference	8-9
Facilitator in Focus: Trevor Garcia	10
Delivering Value for Decontamination	11
Strengthening Community Nursing Connections	12
Best Value Groups	13
NPAG training workshops	14
NPAGNetwork – Supporting our members	15
What's hot for the coming months	16

Facilities South BVG member 2025-26

News in Brief

Clinical Engineers Spotlight Sight-restoring Tech and AI Surge

The Clinical Engineering South BVG recently heard about a breakthrough retinal implant at Moorfields Eye Hospital, where a patient's blind eye regained vision.

Part of a European trial, the Prisma System uses a retinal microchip, camera-equipped glasses and AI to convert visual information into signals interpreted by the brain. Early results have been described as transformative.

The case prompted wider discussion within the group on the rapid acceleration of AI across medical devices. Members noted that the US FDA approved 235 AI-enabled devices in 2024 alone, the highest number ever recorded in a single year.

While radiology continues to lead, AI is increasingly appearing in other specialties. The discussion underlined the critical role of clinical engineering teams in supporting complex, software-driven technologies that are rapidly reshaping patient care across the NHS.

New NPAG Member Email Signature Badge

We're pleased to introduce a new NPAG Member email signature badge, which will be shared with all members over the coming weeks.



The badge gives members a simple way to proudly showcase their NPAG membership, reinforcing the value it brings to their organisation and the wider NHS community. Adding the badge to an email signature helps raise awareness of NPAG, demonstrates commitment to collaboration and best practice and highlights the collective expertise within our network.

We welcome members to take part and help promote the strength and reach of NPAG across the system.

NHS Digital Maturity Reaches Highest Level to Date

The NHS has reached its highest overall level of digital maturity, with many trusts now completing long-running programmes to retire paper records, consolidate electronic patient record (EPR) systems and improve access to data at the point of care.

Recent sector analysis shows trusts moving beyond basic digitisation towards more reliable, interoperable systems that support safer clinical decision-making, improved patient flow and greater operational resilience. This progress has been reinforced by £300 million of national investment in NHS technology, announced in the Autumn Budget, aimed at improving patient services and productivity.

As digital systems become truly mission-critical, the resilience of core infrastructure such as connectivity, power, telephony and devices, is now essential to patient safety and service continuity. This matters to NPAG members because any weakness in these foundations affects the services they manage. It also highlights the need for earlier, closer collaboration between clinical, digital and resilience teams to ensure systems are robust, secure and ready for both everyday use and major incidents.

BVGs Continue to Offer CPD-certified Learning

NPAG reminds members that attendance at Best Value Group (BVG) meetings is eligible for CPD certification.



These peer-led sessions provide practical learning rooted in real NHS and public sector challenges, with certification recognising their professional value. For members, this offers a straightforward way to maintain CPD while engaging with relevant specialist topics and supporting appraisal and ongoing professional development.

Partnering for Progress:

Collaborative Approach to Healthcare Improvement

February invites us to reflect on the importance of connection and, at NPAG, our partnerships with members is at the heart of everything we do. Together, we share challenges, shape solutions and build networks that drive improvement across the NHS.

Recently, a member asked whether it was common for individuals to self-fund their NPAG membership. While this does happen occasionally, it is not the norm. In fact, over 90 NHS Trusts currently fund places on the Waste Management BVG alone, demonstrating strong organisational support for NPAG participation.

This reflects a much wider trend. In 2025, NPAG supported:

- 507 active members across
- 19 Best Value Groups
- representing 260 organisations
- including 210 NHS organisations
- at a time when there are approximately 217 NHS Trusts in England

This national engagement shows the continued value Trusts place on NPAG, even in financially challenging times. Trusts tell us they support membership because it provides cost-effective expertise, informed decision-making, staff development and real-world service improvements.

“NPAG offers you a real opportunity to meet colleagues from across the UK, can really stop you reinventing the wheel and enables personal knowledge growth but is extremely useful in delivering your job role and being able to build a network for information, resources and invaluable expertise and experience.

Trusts Continue to Invest

Trusts continue to back NPAG, even when budgets are stretched tighter than ever. They frequently highlight four major benefits:

1. **Cost-effective expertise:** Membership typically costs £500–£600, a small investment compared to the cost of a management consultancy. Add in the potential savings achieved through networking, benchmarking and shared good practice and it makes absolute fiscal sense.
2. **Better decision-making:** Across theatres, estates, sustainability, telecoms, clinical engineering and many other specialisms, NPAG gives members the data, experiences and national insights they need to make confident, evidence-based decisions.
3. **Professional development:** Funded membership demonstrates organisational commitment to staff development, supporting retention, improving morale and strengthening succession pipelines.
4. **Real-world impact:** From improved safety cultures to measurable efficiency gains, NPAG groups directly influence patient pathways, workforce safety, compliance and operational effectiveness.

Join the Partnership

As we focus on the importance of connection, we want to thank every NHS organisation that continues to invest in NPAG and its people. Your commitment strengthens our networks, empowers members and supports better outcomes across the NHS.

If you'd like to join the partnership or strengthen your team's involvement, contact us at info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk.

Better Together:

Strengthening BVGs Through National Partnerships

NHS England encourages the development of national and local partnerships to enhance leadership, governance and innovation in the healthcare sector.

Our Best Value Groups fully embrace this approach and consider partnerships essential for ensuring decision-making is effective, risk is managed and the right outcomes are delivered – thereby enhancing the membership experience and supporting Member Trusts.

Across our national groups, we have developed a wide range of effective, non-commercial relationships with national bodies, professional associations and technical experts.

Examples of Collaborations in Practice:

Temporary Workforce Network: Regular updates from NHS Employers, now attending all future meetings to provide expert guidance on workforce policy, immigration, job evaluation and pension developments.

Operating Theatres: Consistent attendance from the NHS England GIRFT team, sharing improvement priorities and national insights.

NHS Car Parking & Sustainable Travel: NHS England representatives contribute at each meeting and maintain close contact with Member Trusts throughout the year.

Health Visiting & School Health Services: DHSC engages with the group to discuss updates to the Healthy Child Programme and gather member feedback.

Facilities Groups: Active dialogue with NHS England on estates, facilities, food standards, waste management, and with NHS Supply Chain on programmes such as the National Uniform rollout.

Violence Reduction & Security: Collaboration with the Home Office, Police Forces, Counter Terrorism Units and the CPS, supporting Trusts with legislation, casework and security best practice.

Professional and Technical Bodies

Many Best Value Groups also collaborate closely with respected professional associations and specialist organisations, including:

- National Association for Healthcare Security
- Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse
- School and Public Health Nurses Association
- WSP – Multi-objective building design tool
- MTS Health for Institute of Healthcare Engineering & Estate Management
- Institute of Decontamination Science
- The Association for Perioperative Practice

These partnerships give members access to technical expertise, best practice insights and emerging professional standards.

Benefits

By working closely with national bodies and specialist organisations, NPAG Members benefit from:

- Direct access to national decision-makers and influencers
- Early intelligence on policy developments
- Opportunities to shape and challenge national direction
- Consistent interpretation of technical and regulatory requirements
- Peer-reviewed guidance and practical advice

This collaborative approach reinforces NPAG's core purpose: supporting Trusts to achieve best value, deliver high-quality services and improve outcomes for patients and staff.

Celebrating Our Commercial Partners: A Relationship Built on Trust and Collaboration

As we move into a season that encourages us to appreciate the relationships that matter, it's the perfect time to reflect on the partnerships that make NPAG truly special. Just like any strong relationship, our connection with commercial partners is built on trust, mutual respect and shared goals. These partnerships are a key part of our offer and they play a vital role in delivering value to our members.

Our commercial partners bring expertise, innovation, and insight to NPAG's work. Many of these relationships go back years and that longevity speaks volumes about the loyalty we instil. We don't believe in quantity for its own sake, we focus on quality. NPAG brings together decision-makers who are serious about improving services and outcomes, making every interaction meaningful.

Conferences Designed for Connection

Our conferences are where these relationships truly shine. We spend time carefully planning layouts to maximise footfall and create opportunities for conversations. We also build in plenty of networking time, because we know that meaningful discussions often happen outside the formal sessions. Sponsors contribute not only through financial support but also by sharing knowledge and real-world experience, helping shape agendas and enrich discussions.

We understand that every partner is unique, which is why we offer different and bespoke packages to suit individual needs. From sponsorship opportunities to tailored engagement strategies, we work closely with partners to ensure their objectives are met while delivering maximum value to our members.



Networking opportunities, product demonstrations, and service updates are consistently highlighted by members as key benefits of attending NPAG events. These interactions allow healthcare teams to explore new ideas, ask questions, and build connections that lead to better outcomes for patients and organisations alike.

Member-Led Engagement

Beyond our conferences, some of our most successful best value groups invite commercial partners to present during meetings. These invitations are member-led, meaning partners attend because members want to hear from them. All presentations must have an educational angle, ensuring that sessions deliver genuine value and insight rather than sales pitches. This approach strengthens trust and reinforces the collaborative spirit that defines NPAG.

Case Studies

Every great relationship has a story and so do ours. On the following pages, we're proud to share real examples of how NPAG and our commercial partners work with us to deliver value for members and the NHS.

These case studies highlight the collaboration and educational focus that makes our partnerships meaningful.

Case Studies: Partnership in Action



British Medical Auctions (BMA) is a long-standing supporter of NPAG, regularly sponsoring and exhibiting at our Theatres & Decontamination and Clinical Engineering Conferences. Oliver Pearson, Sales and Marketing Director, shared candid reflections on what makes NPAG stand out.



“The UK medical industry events landscape is extremely crowded, but NPAG conferences genuinely stand out. Their invite-only and membership-led approach means delegates are typically very senior and closely involved in decision-making.

This senior-level attendance sets NPAG apart, offering BMA high-quality engagement with clinicians, engineers, and NHS decision-makers across the country. Over 10 years, these conversations, particularly within NPAG's North and South regional groups, have translated into trusted, long-term partnerships with NHS Trusts.

BMA also credits NPAG for strengthening their visibility across the NHS:

“Each year builds on the last, reinforcing recognition, trust, and familiarity with NHS Trusts nationwide.

Oliver also praised the thoughtful touches—such as delegate prize draws—that encourage interaction and enhance the experience for both exhibitors and attendees.

[Find out more about British Medical Auctions here.](#)



seca, a trusted sponsor of NPAG's Clinical Engineering Conference for many years, also highlighted the quality and depth of engagement that NPAG provides.

“NPAG conferences stand out for their strong clinical relevance and high-quality delegate engagement ...bringing together the right mix of NHS decision-makers and BioMedical Engineers.

For seca, sponsoring NPAG events has enabled the organisation to build long-term relationships with Bio-Medical Engineers and to have open, solution-focused discussions that deepen mutual understanding

“The format encourages genuine dialogue, which has helped us better understand NHS priorities and position our offering in a way that is relevant and impactful.

NPAG has also played a key role in supporting seca's visibility across NHS networks, providing a credible platform for sustained engagement with key stakeholders.

Looking ahead, seca sees opportunities for even more structured collaboration such as themed roundtables and stronger feedback loops, to ensure events continue to evolve with NHS needs.

[Find out more about seca here.](#)

Theatres & Decontamination Conference 2026

National Performance
Advisory Group

*Design for Life, Innovation & Collaboration Across
Theatres and Decontamination*

19th May 2026 | Radisson Blu Stansted Hotel

Join colleagues from operating theatres, decontamination services and industry for a dynamic one-day conference focused on innovation, collaboration and whole-life thinking across surgical services.

Hear from national NHS leaders, frontline experts and industry specialists as they showcase real-world case studies, emerging technologies and future-focused approaches that are transforming theatres and decontamination services.

Conference Highlights

- **Keynote Address:** Professor Tim Briggs – The importance of collaboration across surgical services.
- **Digital Transformation:** ePre-Operative Assessment (ePOA) and its impact on theatre efficiency.
- **Innovation & Technology:** 3D printing of bespoke implantable medical devices.
- **Robotic-Assisted Surgery:** Implications for theatres and decontamination services.
- **NHS Supply Chain:** What it means for surgical services today and tomorrow.
- **Interactive Panel Session:** Design for Life, Innovation & NHS Supply Chain.

Why Attend?

- ✓ **Collaborate:** Break down silos and explore joined-up solutions by learning alongside theatre teams, decontamination professionals and system partners.
- ✓ **Learn from Experts:** Gain practical insights from national NHS leaders, clinicians, engineers and suppliers on governance, digital transformation, innovation and sustainability.
- ✓ **Stay Ahead of the Curve:** Discover emerging technologies, evolving standards and new ways of working shaping the future of surgical services.
- ✓ **Network:** Meet peers, NHS colleagues and commercial partners during dedicated networking and exhibition breaks.

Exhibition

A dedicated exhibition will showcase the latest products, services and innovations supporting theatres and decontamination services, with built-in time to explore, network and ask questions.

Exhibitors confirmed to date:



The conference gives me the face-to-face communication with other managers and to see from the suppliers the new products on offer... Communication-interaction-new technologies and just to know that we are all facing similar day to day challenges.

2025 Conference Delegate

Interested?

Visit our website [here](https://npag.org.uk) or contact us for further information or a booking form: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.

Theatres & Decontamination Conference 2026

National Performance
Advisory Group

*Design for Life, Innovation & Collaboration Across
Theatres and Decontamination*

19th May 2026 | Radisson Blu Stansted Hotel

Sponsorship packages are now open for the NPAG Theatres & Decontamination Conference 2026!

PLATINUM Package Exhibition Stand - £1,550 plus VAT. Package to include: -

- Choice of stand location (on a first come basis)
- 2 x 3 metre exhibition stand space
- Company logo included within conference marketing material
- Company logo included on NPAG website in run up to conference
- Social media exposure
- Hand-outs on registration
- 1 x 1/2-page advertisement within NPAG News
- 4 x Delegate Passes (for the exhibitor stand staff)
- 2 x NHS Guest Passes

GOLD Package Exhibition Stand - £1,350 plus VAT Package to include: -

- 2 x 3 metre width exhibition stand space (stand position will be allocated by NPAG)
- Company logo included within conference marketing material
- Company logo included on NPAG website in run up to conference
- Social media exposure
- Hand-outs on registration
- 1 x 1/2-page advertisement within NPAG News
- 4 x Delegate Passes (for the exhibitor stand staff)
- 2 x NHS Guest Passes

SILVER Package Exhibition Stand - £1,150 plus VAT. Package to include: -

- 2 x 3 metre width exhibition stand space (stand position will be allocated by NPAG)
- Company logo included within conference marketing material
- Company logo included on NPAG website in run up to conference
- Social media exposure
- Hand-outs on registration
- 1 x 1/3-page advertisement within NPAG News
- 2 x Delegate Passes (for the exhibitor stand staff)

BRONZE Commercial Delegates - £450 plus VAT. Package to include: -

- 2x Delegate Passes
- Inserts in delegate packs, as supplied by the sponsor and given to all delegates at registration
- Company logo to be included within all conference marketing material
- Company logo to be included on NPAG website in run up to conference
- Social Media exposure
- Company brochure / Information Sheet on registration
- 1 x 1/3-page advertisement within NPAG News

Additions to your package* could include:

- Attendance for two additional two people - £140 plus VAT
- Double / bespoke stand space - cost to be discussed
- Additional NPAG News ad - £100 + VAT
- Stationery on the tables - £250 plus VAT
- Bags / Handouts - £250 plus VAT

***Terms and Conditions Apply**

Interested?

Visit our website [here](https://npag.org.uk) or contact us for more information or a booking form: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Facilitator in Focus: Trevor Garcia

In this issue of NPAG News, celebrating connection and collaboration, we are delighted to shine a spotlight on Trevor Garcia, a valued NPAG Facilitator and until recently the National Chairman of the Institute of Decontamination Sciences (IDSc) where he has been made a Fellow of the IDSc in recognition of his work.

Trevor's career reflects the very best of the NPAG spirit. He has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to patient safety, a passion for education and a strong belief in the power of collaboration to drive improvement.



A Leader in Decontamination

Trevor retired from the NHS in June 2019 after an outstanding 37-year career, having held senior decontamination roles across two Trusts. For the final 20 years, he served as Decontamination

Lead at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, alongside a two-year secondment as Associate Director of Clinical Support Services, gaining valuable insight across Pathology, Radiology, Outpatients, Cancer Services and Pharmacy. This exposed him to the many challenges faced by the different services whilst ensuring patient safety was paramount.

Retirement was never going to mean stepping away. A passionate advocate for education, Trevor completed a highly influential three-year term as Chair of the Institute of Decontamination Sciences (IDSc) last year, helping to cement its position as the sector's leading professional body.

Previously, as IDSc Director of Education (2011–2018), he led national work with Health Education

England to develop apprenticeship pathways—an achievement he is particularly proud of. Although “retired”, Trevor remains deeply engaged in the profession. He is a Lead End Point Assessor for the National School of Healthcare Science, provides consultancy to several organisations and sits on the IDSc Education and Conference Subcommittee.

Trevor has facilitated NPAG's Decontamination Best Value Group since 2020, supporting its growth and shared learning.

His influence extends beyond the UK. In 2024, he presented at Arab Health in Dubai, sharing UK standards and decontamination best practice internationally. Closer to home, he contributed to the Science Museum London's Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries in 2019, where his statement on decontamination and patient safety now forms part of a permanent exhibition highlighting the profession's role in safe patient care.

Transferable Skills

This year, Trevor takes on facilitation of NPAG's National District Nurses Network, bringing his broad NHS perspective, approachable style and educational expertise to another vital community.

Trevor is also the Co-chair of NPAG's highly anticipated Theatres & Decontamination Conference, this year being held on 19th May at the Radisson Blu Stansted Airport Hotel.

Through his NPAG work, Trevor continues to drive improvement through collaboration. He has always believed that healthcare staff must work together as a team to make significant improvements that benefit patients. He has strengthened learning and safety across decontamination services and informs national bodies including the AfPP, NHSE, DHSC and MHRA.

We are proud to celebrate Trevor's achievements and warmly congratulate him on becoming a fellow of the IDSc.

Delivering Value for Decontamination

The NPAG Decontamination Best Value Group continues to support members in delivering safe, compliant, and high-quality decontamination services.

As we prepare to launch the 2026 round on Wednesday 19 February 2026, it is timely to reflect on the impact and value of this collaborative programme.

Supporting Quality, Compliance and Shared Learning

The Decontamination BVG brings together professionals from across the NHS to share learning, strengthen compliance, and build confidence in managing regulatory and assurance requirements. Members benefit from expert insight, practical guidance, and the opportunity to learn from peers facing similar challenges—helping to reduce risk and improve patient safety.

2025 Highlight: CAPA Workshop with Intertek



One of the most impactful sessions from the 2025 programme was the Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) Workshop, delivered by Damon Harley, Lead Auditor at Intertek. Drawing on extensive experience as a medical device auditor, Damon led an interactive session covering:

- Root Cause Analysis and moving beyond restating findings
- The difference between correction and corrective action
- Preventive action to reduce future risk
Verifying effectiveness to prevent recurrence

Participants explored real-world decontamination scenarios, including Steam Purity Testing, and discussed common challenges such as unclear responsibilities, lack of verification plans, and poor documentation. The session reinforced that effective CAPA is about system improvement, shared learning, and patient safety—not blame.

Looking Ahead to the 2026 Decontamination BVG

Starting on 19th February, the 2026 Decontamination BVG will be delivered on MS Teams offering expert-led presentations and practical workshops.

It will especially offer opportunities to share best practice and peer learning alongside support in meeting regulatory requirements and improving service quality.

Whether new to decontamination or highly experienced, members consistently highlight the BVG as a valuable forum for learning, assurance, and professional development.

Secure Your Place

The 2026 programme offers another opportunity to stay ahead of regulatory expectations and drive continuous improvement.

You can also find out more information about NPAG's Decontamination BVG by visiting our website [here](#) or get in touch to register at To register, contact us at info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk.

Strengthening Community Nursing Connections

As the NHS continues to shift care closer to home, community nursing has never been more central to delivering safe, person-centred care.

This is reflected in the NHS 10-Year Plan, which places strong emphasis on a community pillar, recognising the vital role of district and community nurses in prevention, long-term condition management and keeping people well outside hospital settings.

At the same time, the workforce context is becoming more challenging. A recent article in Clinical Services Journal, referencing NMC data, reported a sharp decline in international recruitment of nurses, midwives and nursing associates. While the total number of professionals registered to practise in the UK has reached a record high, overall workforce growth has slowed significantly.

For community nursing services already under pressure, this underlines the importance of supporting workforce resilience, leadership and retention while staying aligned with national policy and patient safety priorities.

NDNN: Supporting Community Nursing from the Front Line Up

NPAG's National District Nurses Network (NDNN) provides a unique national platform for district nursing leaders and professionals to come together to share learning, explore innovative ways of working and discuss policy developments.

As the next round of the network launches, NDNN offers a timely opportunity for members to exchange best practice on service delivery, workforce challenges, digital developments and operational solutions that support safe, high-quality care in the community.

NDNN Member Voices

Feedback from the 2025 NDNN Community Engagement Survey highlights the value of the network in facilitating peer connection and practical learning.

Members consistently described NDNN as a vital space for networking and information sharing. Others highlighted the impact on leadership confidence and local practice. At a time of slowing workforce growth, this shared learning and mutual support is increasingly important.



It has been a great networking opportunity to share learning and discuss differences in operations between localities.

How Your Feedback Is Shaping NDNN 2026

- ✓ More networking through open forums and discussion-led sessions.
- ✓ Greater practical focus, with more case studies and shared local solutions.
- ✓ Leadership and motivation at the heart of the programme.
- ✓ Refined session formats, informed by member feedback.
- ✓ Ongoing support for collaboration and professional development across regions.

Looking Ahead

As the NHS continues to prioritise community-based care, the NDNN plays a key role in helping nursing leaders stay connected, informed and supported. The new round will be launching in March, offering a valuable opportunity to strengthen practice, support resilience and collectively shape the future of community nursing. Find out more [here](#).

NPAG Best Value Groups

The following groups are renewing in the coming months:

Facilities South BVG - New round starting on 11th February 2026

NHS Facilities South Managers share new ideas, service innovation, discuss topical issues, measure trust performance, provide cost effective solutions, learn from others creative service redesign and network with like-minded individuals involved in Facilities Management. The group has a broad membership from Acute, Community and Mental Health Trusts with members who have a wealth of experience in managing facilities. Members of the group continue to demonstrate enthusiasm for seeking out improvements and developments in their services, providing a solid basis upon which to provide the best available care for patients.

[Find out more](#)

Decontamination BVG - New round starting on 19th February 2026

The NPAG Decontamination Best Value Group brings together NHS and private sector leaders in decontamination, sterile services, and endoscopy to share ideas, tackle common challenges, and stay informed on regulations and scientific developments. Covering all aspects of reusable medical device processing, the group offers a supportive environment for learning and networking, both during meetings and via the NPAGNetwork, which is invaluable for managers who often work in isolation. Members shape the agenda, with expert-led, non-commercial presentations on topics such as innovations in endoscopy and sterile services, ensuring patient safety remains the top priority. The group's collaborative spirit and enthusiasm make it a trusted resource for knowledge and best practice.

[Find out more](#)

Clinical Engineering North & South BVGs - New round starting on 3rd and 10th March 2026

The Clinical Engineering North Group was formed in July 2000, after it was recognised that the Controls Assurance process identified the advantage of being a member of such clubs. Today, the Clinical Engineering North Group is an expert group of professionals, assisting clinical engineering managers in the continuous improvement of their services. An important aspect of the group's meetings is sharing data to benchmark performance. To facilitate benchmarking, the group has developed a number of KPIs. These KPIs enable members to monitor their department's individual performance and provide a means to monitor continuous performance.

[Find out more](#)

Energy Network - New round starting on 3rd March 2026

Energy is a recurring theme across our existing networks, including Estates and Sustainability. However, with the NHS facing increasing pressure to meet net zero targets and national efforts underway to revise HTM 07-02: Making Energy Work in Healthcare, there's a clear need for a focused platform. The Energy Network offers a deeper dive into energy strategy, providing support and insight for NHS trusts navigating this complex and evolving landscape. The group supports NHS professionals looking to improve energy performance, meet regulatory requirements, or contribute to the NHS's sustainability goals.

[Find out more](#)

Interested? NPAG's Best Value Groups provide a structured networking forum for healthcare professionals to meet, discuss current issues and hear from internal and external experts. Visit our [website](#) to find out more or contact the NPAG team for more information at info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

NPAG Training Workshops For Healthcare Professionals

As part of our aim to support NHS and public sector managers, NPAG offers a variety of healthcare training workshops, working with a network of trainers who are experts in their field.

The NPAG training workshop portfolio includes:

Workplace Wellbeing

A one-day on-site workshop offering a supportive and practical space for to explore strategies that promote personal resilience, emotional wellbeing and a healthier workplace culture. Through interactive sessions, participants gain tools to manage stress, improve self-awareness and foster positive communication - empowering them to care for themselves while continuing to deliver compassionate care to others.

[Find
out
more](#)

Putting the Patient First: Customer Care & Communication

This one-day on-site training workshop increases awareness of the service user relationships and its importance and impact on your organisation. The bespoke programme will reflect on your organisational core values, ensuring successful and measurable outcomes. Using exercises and various other materials, it will challenge behaviours and attitudes helping promote an excellent service to all service users.

[Find
out
more](#)

Clinical Development for Occupational Health Professionals

Part of a wider series of training modules for 2026, we are concentrating on two of the most in-demand workshops. Each will introduce recent research and developments, teaching critical thinking over academic content. Choose from:

- 17th April 2026 - Performance & Attendance
- 23rd April 2026 - Fitness for Work

Each module represents standalone professional participatory CPD hours.

[Find
out
more](#)

Benefits include:



- ✓ Evidence to the CQC of your commitment to improving patient care through staff training
- ✓ Evidence of contribution towards NHS England's *Promise* to provide a positive and compassionate working culture
- ✓ Practical 'toolkits' to help delegates hone additional skills to enhance their daily role
- ✓ All NPAG workshops are CPD certified, offering standalone professional participatory CPD hours
- ✓ As an NHS organisation, NPAG is able to offer training at very competitive prices

Who are our workshops aimed at?



Healthcare professionals. Training programmes are tailored and developed to meet delegate and organisational needs.

Interested? Visit our [website here](#) to find out more about our workshops here or
Contact Lynn Maddison for further details and booking information at info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

NPAGNetwork

Supporting our Members

National Performance
Advisory Group

The NPAG Network is available to all our Members and continues to provide a very welcome service.

NPAG developed the service, recognising the need for a forum for healthcare providers to ask questions, request assistance and information, share documents, and get professional and practical advice from their peers throughout the UK, saving time and money in not reinventing the wheel. Members of the NPAG's Best Value and National Networking Groups form the nucleus of the Network – providing over 600 contacts throughout the UK.



Here are some recent Network questions:



Does your organisation use body worn cameras? Do you have a policy and do staff see them as useful?

National District Nurses Network Member

The Trust has authorised the use of AI to help track patients who are at risk of absconding. My vision is to expand this scope to include alerting Security when a patient or visitor who is subject to the sanction process enters the site, or when an individual with a history of criminal behaviour (e.g., bike theft, criminal damage, car park machine deception) returns to the hospital.

Do any other members currently use AI for these purposes? If so, would you be able to share any relevant policies or procedures, particularly those relating to Information Governance?"

Violence Reduction & Security Management Network Member

What trust do for Estates on call payments and rotas, copy of the policy would be helpful if they have one, also what provision do they have for emergency cover where you need to get short notice on call over?

Estates Management BVG Member

We're seeing a rise in incidents where Trust wheelchairs are being removed from our sites, and we're reviewing options to strengthen how we manage and track this equipment. If any organisations have introduced successful approaches — including tracking systems, tagging solutions or operational processes that have helped reduce loss — I'd be grateful if you could share your experience. Any insights, including what has or hasn't worked, would be really helpful.

Facilities South BVG Member

If you don't currently use the service, please do so. You will not be disappointed! Please send your NPAG Network requests to: npagnetwork@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Please note, you need to be an NPAG member to submit an enquiry and members must have permission to share documentation with NPAG.

Working in Partnership with NPAG

NPAG has established many important partnerships over the years. We work closely with a number of excellent training providers and business associates.

If this is of interest to you, please contact us: info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

What's hot for the coming months:

National Networking Group Meetings Conferences

February

- Operating Theatre Managers BVG
- Facilities South BVG

March

- Energy Network
- Waste Management BVG
- Temporary Workforce Network
- Clinical Engineering North & South BVGs
- National District Nurses Network
- Health Visiting & School Health Services Network
- Estates BVG

- Theatres and Decontamination Conference (19th May 2026)
- Clinical Engineering Conference (22nd September 2026)

Workshops & Events

- Clinical Development for Occupational Health Professionals training workshops: April 2026
- Putting the Patient First on-site training workshops
- Workplace Wellbeing training workshops

Please contact info@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk for more information.

CONTACT US

NPAGNEWS@NPAG.EASTAMB.NHS.UK

EAST OF ENGLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST,
CHELMSFORD OFFICE,
HOSPITAL APPROACH, BROOMFIELD, ESSEX CM1 7WS

