

For CCG/ICS Respiratory and Primary Care leads, PCN Directors and Practice Leads and Practice Managers.

Introduction of Primary Care Respiratory Champions to the South West.

The South West (SW) Respiratory Clinical Network are in an advantageous position to be able to support the development of Primary Care Respiratory Champions in PCNs across the whole of the region for the six months November 21 till April 22.

Aim: for the SW Respiratory Clinical Network to support the first 6-month development of a Primary Care Respiratory Champion for each PCN across the SW. (Nov-21– Apr 22). It is anticipated that these Champions will be current members of the Primary Care workforce with special interest in respiratory care and likely hold Practice Nurse, AHP or Pharmacist roles.

The SW Respiratory Clinical Network is looking for a Primary Care Respiratory Champion in each PCN to support efforts across the SW region to:

- Increase numbers of people accurately diagnosed with asthma and COPD
- Increase the numbers who have a full review of their respiratory condition, by using health data to support prioritising review of those at highest risk of hospitalisation due to exacerbation this winter, which is particularly relevant following service disruption during the pandemic
- Influence the access to and successful uptake and completion of Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Adopt appropriate use of digital solutions to support respiratory care such as self-management apps / tools often in collaboration within other providers within the care pathway

We are looking for Primary Care staff with both primary care and respiratory experience who can work with their PCN colleagues

- to identify, understand and address variation and improve performance e.g. by using risk and prioritisation stratification tools
- to provide clinical leadership, cascade training, and support practices within the PCN to deliver improvement across primary care.
- To build a system-wide (ICS/CCG) “Respiratory Community of Practice” with fellow champions to support primary care to deliver high quality respiratory care through a sustainable peer-support network.
- To progress respiratory care excellence as outlined in national quality standards and the NHS Long Term Plan, including supporting issues around the recovery of routine services following the disruption of Covid-19.

A Primary Care Respiratory Champion will have:

- An enthusiasm for supporting and influencing widespread improvements in respiratory care within primary care
- An experience of delivering Respiratory care within a Primary Care setting
- An interest in supporting other clinicians to improve the care they provide

- An ability to develop productive working relationships with peers

The Respiratory Clinical Network can offer:

- Respiratory care guidance and education sessions (MSTeams) delivered by the SW Respiratory Clinical Network Clinical Leads, show-casing best practice, use of data to guide care and opportunities to improve care.
- Peer support and networking providing an opportunity to collaborate with like-minded primary care colleagues from across the south west
- One-year PCRS membership providing access to self-development opportunities including the primary care respiratory academy, peer support networks and the respiratory leadership programme.
- Funding to enable either:
 - the employing GP practice of the Champion to “backfill” time allowing the individual to be released each week for six-months to undertake respiratory activity within the PCN or
 - payment of the individual for additional hours to undertake respiratory activity within the PCN each week for six-months (by local agreement/arrangement with CCG/ICS)

Next Steps:

Please confirm that to your ICS/CCG Respiratory Commissioning leads that the PCN wish to take up this funding offer and that the PCNs Directors/Leads are supporting these roles.

Circulate details of the Primary Care Respiratory Champion role throughout the Primary Care workforce via all your Primary Care and PCN routes.

Individuals who wish to apply for this role and have approval from their practice manager/practice lead and their PCN leads should complete and submit the form via the link provided.

Information for possible nominees along with a link to the application form can be found in “PC RespChampion_with form”.

Where more than one individual expresses an interest in being their Respiratory Champion it will be for the ICS/CCG respiratory lead to confirm the nomination in discussion with the relevant PCN lead.

Submissions from nominees should be received by 29th October 2021 in anticipation of the first education session on 2nd November 2021.