

Development of a Practice Support Guide

Supporting our trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioners across the North West

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The purpose

The journey to become an advanced clinical practitioner (ACP), whilst rewarding, can be incredibly challenging. Master's level study, combined with the demands of learning in clinical practice is a huge undertaking.

In addition to these demands, common and significant life events or obstacles can occur during training programmes too and it can be difficult to know where to turn for support.

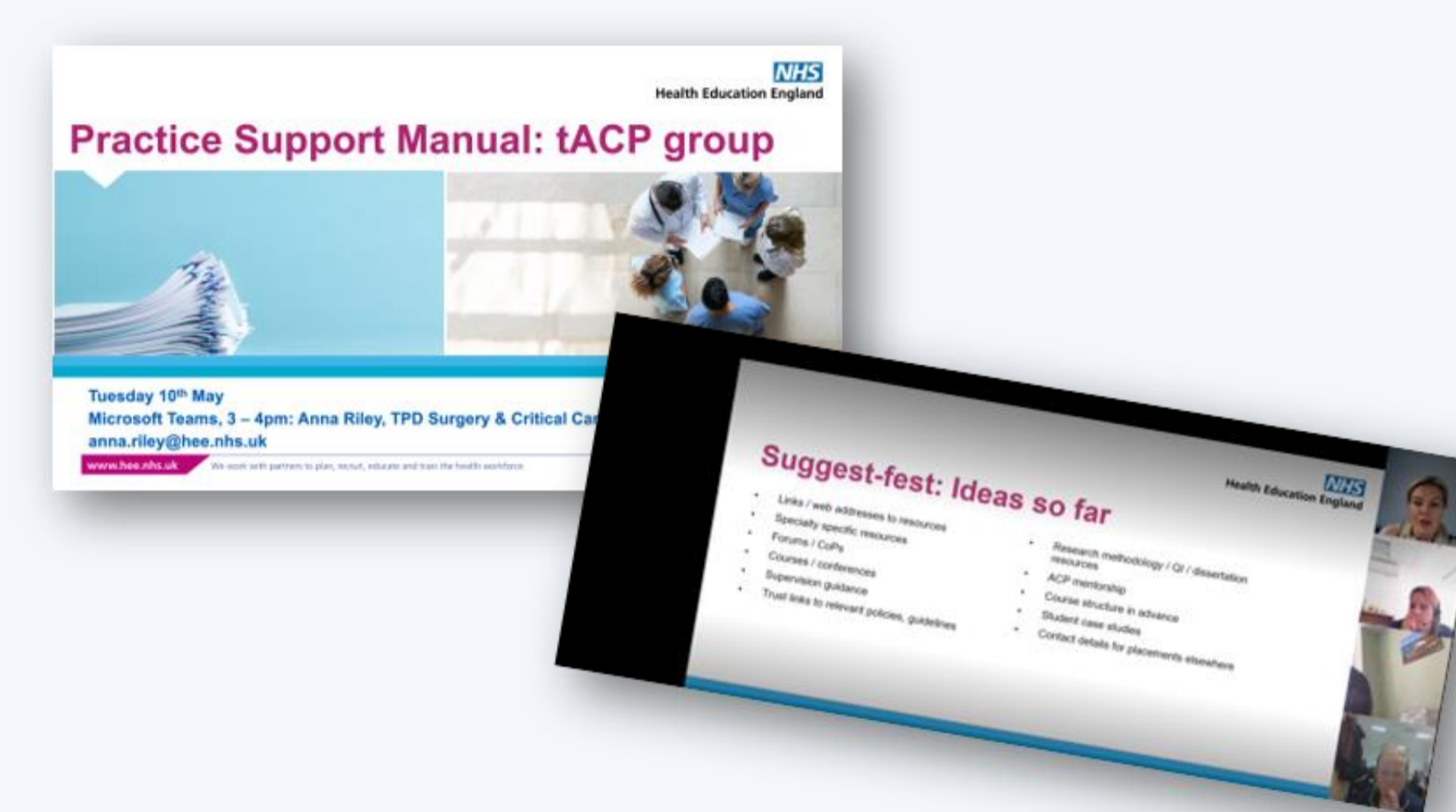
This Practice Support Guide was developed in the hope that it would become a valuable, 'first point of reference' resource that our trainee advanced clinical practitioner (tACP) workforce could refer to for guidance at various points of their programme. It intended to alleviate confusion, outline responsibilities, expectations, and clarify processes to follow if trainees needed additional support.

The process

This document was developed using a 4-phase approach. During phase one, a scoping exercise was completed. Questionnaires were sent to trainee advanced clinical practitioners, our higher education institution programme leaders, and our regional organisational leads for advancing practice in a bid to understand both individual and collective experiences. A total of 37 responses were received.



tACP involvement

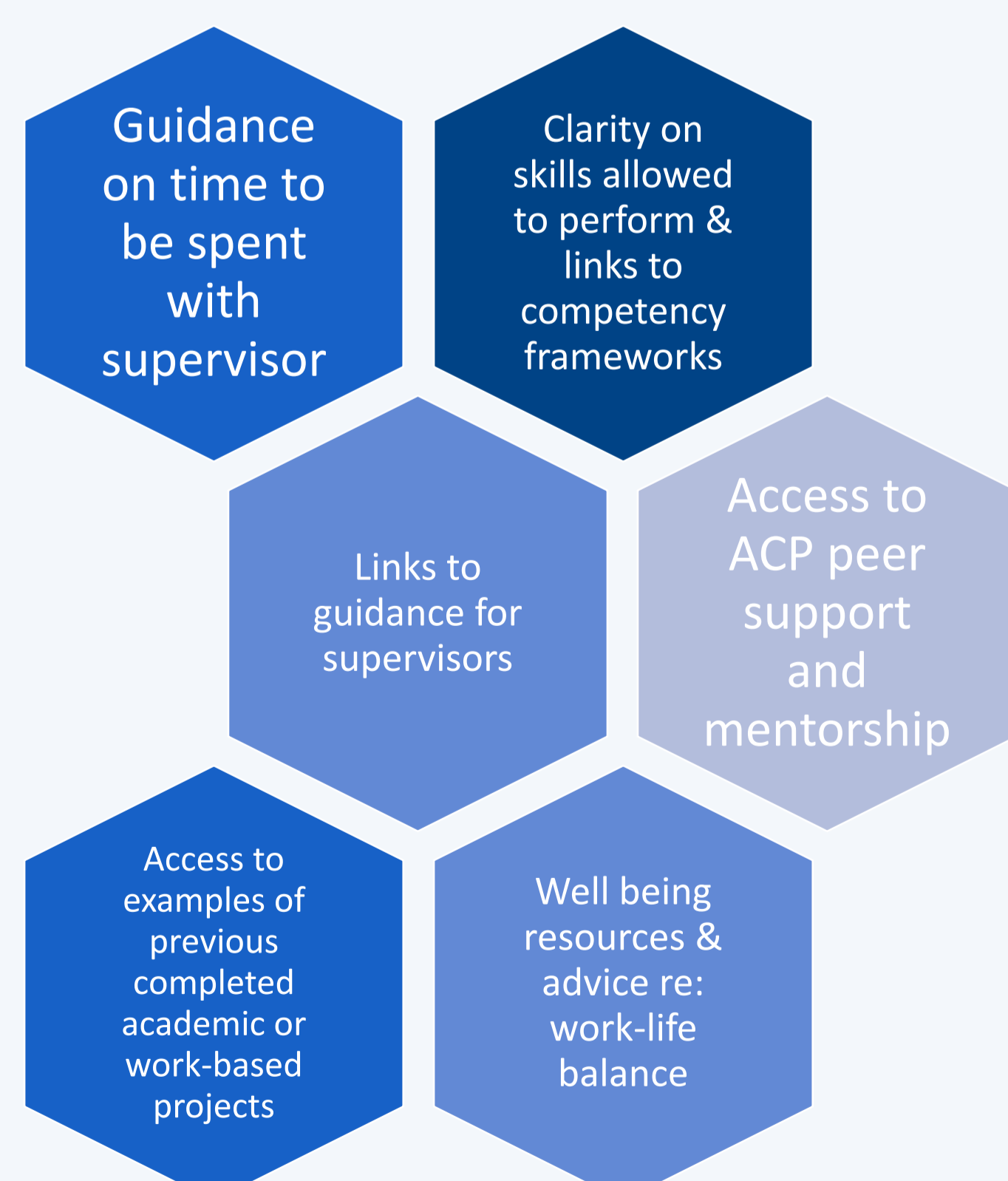


The needs, voices and experiences of our tACPs were kept at the heart of this document creation. A specific interest group (SIG) was formed, consisting of both tACPs and those ACPs who had recently completed their MSc programme. A virtual event was held in May 2022 to agree on document content.

The Faculty for Advancing Practice in the South West also kindly shared their 'trainee handbook' document, which proved really helpful.

Stakeholder input

These were the common themes that emerged as result of feedback from the SIG, in addition to feedback from those other key individuals who contribute to trainee education and development.



Draft feedback

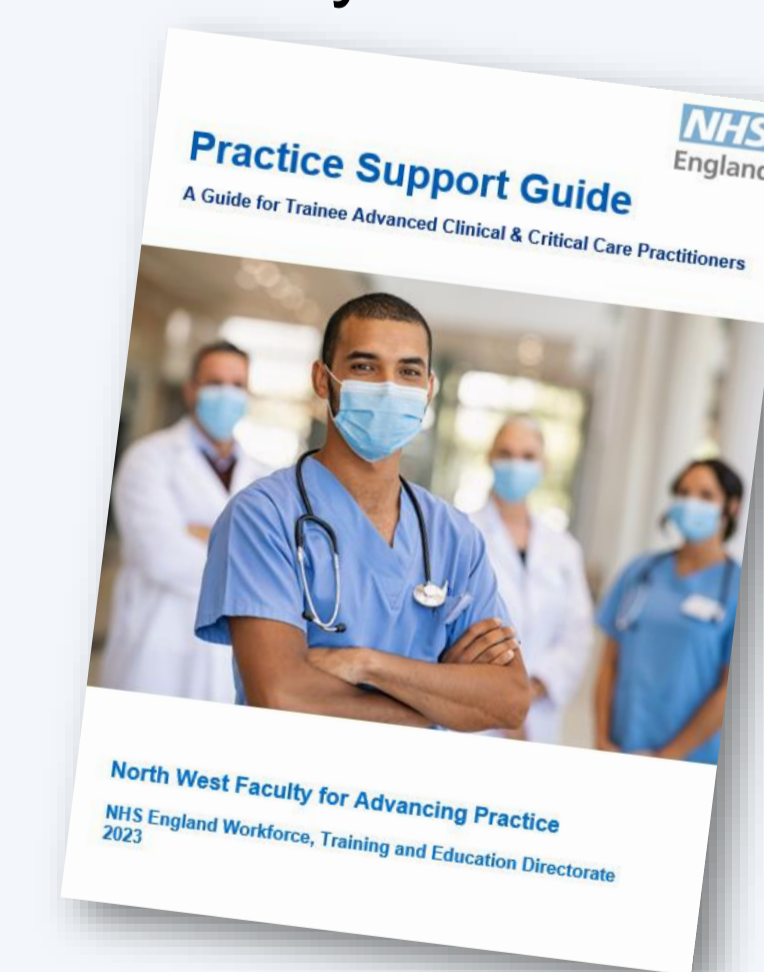
A draft of the document was produced & circulated to the tACP and ACP SIG, wider Faculty, HEI programme leads and organisational leads in December 2022 for comment and feedback. Amendments were then made according to the feedback received. Comments included, but were not limited to:

- "Very useful and user friendly"
- "Consider individual HEI stipulations surrounding clinical supervision"
- "Very informative. I really like the flowcharts and the tACP experiences"
- "Need to consider equality, diversity and inclusion"

Further consultation with and engagement from key equality and diversity individuals and networks was sought in January 2023.

Publication

A final draft was sent to the core Faculty in March 2023. A final draft was approved and was sent to our in house Communications and Engagement team for branding and formatting. The document will be launched in online format on the regional Faculty's website in July 2023.



Future projects

- Digital Staff Passport, to enable tACPs to seek learning opportunities via placement networks within region.
- 'Knowledge Drop' resource bank on Faculty website.