

Invitation for Expressions of Interest to lead on North East London Women's Health Compatibility Framework project

Summary of project

This exciting project, led by a GP or GPs, will underpin women's health transformation in North East London (NEL). Supported by secondary care and other stakeholders, they will produce and promote implementation of a framework for primary care professionals to identify, develop and maintain basic or intermediate knowledge and skills in women's health.

Women's Health Hubs (WHHs) are progressing in City and Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Barking, Havering and Redbridge. They involve both general upskilling of local GPs and development of GPs with a Special Interest (GPwSI) in Women's Health or Specialty Doctors.

This project aims to identify key competencies to define the GPwSI role and support their development. It will identify both local and general opportunities for GPs to develop and maintain competencies, including through shadowing of clinics and training opportunities in NEL. There is no national framework to define this emerging GPwSI/Specialty Doctor role, and so the NEL framework could be shared as a valuable tool nationally.

Areas will include signs, symptoms, examination, treatment and advice for patients presenting with, for example, Urogynaecology, Menopause, Menstrual and Pelvic conditions. The compatibility framework has been trialled in City and Hackney to develop a template focused on urogynaecology.

The project draft plan is based on a GP working for approximately three sessions per week for six months, but delivery of the project can be flexible, including the possibility of two people co-leading the project.

Purpose and objectives of the project

The aim of this project is to develop a supportive framework for GPs in NEL to offer:

- a good basic level of women's healthcare (i.e. for all GPs)
- an intermediate level, including to develop special interest in women's health.

The project aims to promote and embed use of the framework both in general practice and women's health hub / community services. The framework will include advice on how practitioners can maintain skills, provide services, and access ongoing support.

The benefit for residents will be GPs'/GPwSIs' ability to meet their women's health needs alongside their holistic perspective in single appointments. Therefore more women can have the right care close to home, with multiple needs met holistically in single appointments.

Sections of the framework could include

- Framework Level (Basic/Intermediate)
- Descriptor (list of competencies) (e.g. Understanding of how prolapse presents etc.)
- Requirements (e.g. Be able to identify a prolapse on vaginal examination)

- Self-directed learning (e.g. local guidelines, pathways and education. National video/websites/courses)
- Practical (e.g. observing clinics: urogynaecology, women’s health, continence, pessary insertion, continence service – possibly across NEL)
- Advice on offering services and maintain skills in general practice or community services

Resource/costs for project

Costings are based on 6 months of 0.3WTE GP with interest in women’s health for £15,000 to manage:

- Convening groups of stakeholders for each pathway, e.g. for urogynaecology: urogynaecology, continence service, community gynaecology, primary care
- Agreeing place-based and NEL-wide learning opportunities
- Drafting, agreeing and finalising framework to share across system
- Promotion and implementation of compatibility framework

Support will be provided by the clinical leads and project manager for NEL Women’s Health Hub projects, and there is flexibility for the project to be delivered either against an adjusted timescale or by multiple clinicians.

The expected timeline for the project

(based on 0.3WTE for 6 months, but flexible to availability of project lead/s)

Month	Main activity
1	Stakeholder engagement: Initial discussions with primary and secondary care partners about structure and content for individual areas, learning opportunities in NEL and how the framework should be implemented
2	Drafting of framework
3	
4	Meetings with wider partners to review draft framework sections and make amendments
5	
6	Finalise and launch framework, including primary care communications and event / embedding in Women’s Health Hub systems / online resources for NEL. Agree plan for continuing use and system for review.

Expressions of Interest to lead on project

We ask anyone interested to lead or co-lead on the project to submit an expression of interest, and will then arrange interviews with clinical leads for the services. If you would be interested in leading or co-leading on this project, please could you email guyslade@nhs.net by **Friday 17th May** with:

- Your CV
- Brief overview of your relevant experience and skills for this project
- Brief overview of why you may want to work on this project

Based on this, we will then be in touch about interview dates/times.

The successful candidate will agree to a project specification and then invoice Homerton Healthcare for working on the project for £15,000 (or less if sharing with another project lead).

For more information, please contact Guy Slade (Women’s Health Hubs project manager - City & Hackney and Tower Hamlets) at guyslade@nhs.net / 07813039876.