

SuppoRTT Champions

School of Psychiatry

Juliette Kennedy

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Hello – I am the new SuppoRTT champion for Psychiatry in HEYH. Unlike other support champions the Psychiatry SuppoRTT champion is speciality rather than Trust based so I will be working across all 7 trusts in Yorkshire. I have been TPD for CAMHS higher training for 4 years and so I have worked regionally in this role. I have personally worked LTFT for long periods of my career and am the LTFT champion in my trust at present.

I have had 3 periods of maternity leave myself and have recently needed 6 months off work to care for a sick child, so I do have some personal experience of returning to work after a period of absence and how important it is that a return is planned and safe and confident. I am also a HEE trained coach and am keen to support Trainees across the region using this model. I think the HEE SuppoRTT framework is a great set of tools to ensure trainees' return to work needs, are appropriately considered and addressed, so that trainees can thrive at work going forward.

Airedale

Martin Kelsey

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I have been a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Airedale since 2012. Since joining the trust I have held a number of educational roles including Foundation Training Programme Director, Guardian of Safe Working, Undergraduate lead and, currently, Director of Medical Education. I have a particular interest in junior doctor welfare and supporting the induction and support arrangements for International Medical Graduates. I have been the trust SuppoRTT champion for 3 years.

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Shobha Sivaramakrishnan

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I have been a consultant Community paediatrician since 2001. I have a lot of teaching and raining experience in various capacities as tutor on PG course, Educational and clinical supervisor, CSAC advisor for Community Child health. Since I started supervising foundation trainees few years ago, I realised that there are many health and well-being issues which has long term implications on retention of junior doctors. I started offering health and well-being programmes for foundation trainees in my trust and co taught similar courses for senior paediatric trainees in HEE. I am passionate about trainee well-being as they are our future workforce who need nurturing and developing.

I am involved in SuppoRTT for paediatric trainees and would like to utilise my skills for other trainees in the trust.

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

David Wilkinson

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I have been a consultant vascular surgeon in Bradford for 26 years and throughout that time I have done all I can to provide an excellent learning environment for trainees, undergraduate doctors and healthcare learners.

I have held local educational roles including Director of Education in Bradford and led the development of the Field House Education Centre and Sovereign lecture theatre. Within Yorkshire and the Humber I have been a Foundation School Director, Head of School, Deputy Dean and Postgraduate Dean.

I strongly believe that all learners should receive the support, advice and resources to fulfil their potential and serve patients to the best of their ability. Guiding and supporting trainees who take time out of training for any reason has not been done well in the past and I am committed to putting that right.

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Pamela Ohadike

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I am a Consultant paediatrician with an interest in neonates working in the Trust. I have previously been a College Tutor and am a Clinical Supervisor and Educational Supervisor. While supervising trainees I have seen how the right support can help trainees experiencing difficulties.

I applied for this current role as Champion SupporTT lead as I wanted to improve the experience of all trainees who take time off for various reasons who return to work no matter what discipline they are in.

I have an established relationship with the Postgraduate Medical Education Department and with the rota coordinators and Human Resources we aim to change the way trainees get back into training within our Trust.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Lucy Peart

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I am an Acute Medicine Consultant based in Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

I have previously been a Royal college tutor, and work closely with the education team. I have recently taken on the role as SupporTT champion for our trust.

Having had periods of time out during my training with little structured support, guidance or preparation for when I returned, I think it is great HEE has developed a framework to help support trainees both prior to and after a period of absence and that their training needs are recognised. I hope we can continue to improve this for our trainees in the trust.

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

Ip Scarrott

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I am a geriatrician working at Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust and the SuppoRTT champion for the trust.

I have a strong interest in supporting trainees return to work, through my role as an educational supervisor and through my own experience during my training when I returned from maternity leave as a LTFT trainee.

Recognising the challenges of returning, I know how important it is to get the process of returning to work standardised for all trainees, across all specialities, to ensure a smooth transition back to work. This in turn helps the wellbeing of staff and patient safety.

Having strong links within the education department at Harrogate, I am able to promote the SuppoRTT process, helping trainees and supervisors to reach their goals. I can be contacted via email, or via the medical education department at Harrogate for queries, and would be happy to meet up if needed.

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Kavita Tharian

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I am a consultant paediatrician in Hull University Teaching hospitals NHS Trust. I am pleased to take up the role as SuppoRTT champion for the trust. Having had to start higher specialist training in paediatrics after a year of maternity leave, I have had first-hand experience of some of the challenges that trainees have to face on their return after a period of time out. Hence this role as SuppoRTT champion is very close to my heart.

I have been an educational and clinical supervisor for many years and have enjoyed working with and supporting trainees returning to work and thus have seen, how a smooth transition back into training with a bespoke return to training package can promote trainee wellbeing, help trainees thrive and perform well in their work environment.

I look forward to supporting both trainees and supervisors to access the SuppoRTT resources to make the return-to-training process as smooth as possible.

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Catherine Tandy

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I am a Consultant in Elderly Medicine at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. I am also the SuppoRTT and LTFT Champion for LTHT. I have experience as a Clinical and Educational Supervisor, Foundation Programme Director and Training Programme Director for Elderly Medicine. Through these roles I have developed an interest in the pastoral and professional support of trainees in difficulty, supporting them to complete their programmes despite sometimes difficult and challenging circumstances.

In the SuppoRTT Champion role I will support both trainees and supervisors to access and agree an individualised return to training package to make the return-to-work process as smooth as possible, whatever the reason for absence.

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Kelly Heckingbottom-Plunkett

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I am the Matron for Medical Education, which I believe to be a unique role to Mid Yorkshire. My absolute priority is to ensure that the educational and wellbeing needs of the junior doctors in training are met. My life at Mid Yorkshire began in February 1996 as a student nurse, my final two placements were in the then A&E where I then secured my first permanent role, I remained in ED for almost 21 years working my way through the ranks. Throughout this time I have formed many strong and valuable links across our Trust.

Although I am not a medic, it was felt that due to the nature of my role, I am best placed to be the joint SuppoRTT Champion at the Mid Yorkshire, I work alongside Dr Ian Wilson to meet the needs of our returning trainees. I have three children and recognise first-hand the trepidation which surrounds transition back into the workplace following a long absence.

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Ian Wilson

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North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

Maja Kotlinska

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Hello, I am consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology working in Diana, Princess of Wales hospital which is a part of NLAG Trust.

I have a lot of interest and enthusiasm for medical education. I hold the role of College Tutor for O&G and I am educational and clinical supervisor. I am also involved in undergraduate training, as well as obstetric workshops, simulation and interdisciplinary training.

I, myself was a trainee returning to training on two occasions following period of maternity leave. I certainly understand and recognise the challenges and fears that come alongside with the return.

I hope that through my own experiences and nurturing approach of SupportTT programme we can ease this transition for you.

Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

Clare Smith

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I have been a Consultant Anaesthetist in Rotherham since 2007 and have had several educational roles during this time. I have been a named educational supervisor since 2008 and have undertaken roles as Deputy College Tutor and subsequently College Tutor within the Trust. I was TPD for Anaesthesia in South Yorkshire for 6 years between 2013 and 2019 and it was during this time that I gained much of my experience in supporting a number of doctors returning to training after a period of time out.

Doctors have time out for many different reasons and often have a multitude of differing concerns when returning to clinical practice. Poorly planned and poorly supported return to training can be detrimental to trainees and having the opportunity to influence both trainee and trainer experience and support both is an exciting prospect. Happy and well-supported trainees and trainers make for a safer and more pleasant and productive working environment.

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Karen Griffin

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I am a general medical paediatric consultant working at Sheffield Children's Hospital. I have an interest in safeguarding and child and adolescent mental health.

I am a clinical and educational supervisor and have more recently become involved in staff wellbeing within our trust. I enjoy teaching, mentoring and spending time with trainees.

I have had time outside of training myself for parental leave, research and OoPE in healthcare leadership. I recognise the challenges of moving into and out of clinical practice and am keen to ensure that trainees have everything in place to thrive as they progress through their career, whatever shape or form it takes.

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Freya Smith-Jack

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Whilst completing my training I took an OOP to care for my terminally ill mother, I then came back pregnant and took unpaid maternity leave. My experiences during this time shaped my outlook and let me see first hand the hurdles that those returning to work after a period of absence face and how to overcome them.

I am passionate about trying to positively improve trainees experiences of returning to work and provide support from a multitude of different areas. I worked with a trainee led committee to build a return to work / less than full time trainee conference in the Southwest Deanery and put together a SuppoRTT website and app before completing a leadership and management fellowship and qualification during my last year of training.

Although I am a newly qualified consultant in a trust which is new to me I am enthusiastic about supporting trainees to feel ready and keen to return to work after a period of absence for whatever reason that is.

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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York and Scarborough Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Jenny King

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York and Scarborough Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Suzanne Francis

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I have been a Consultant in Emergency Medicine since 2011 having done my HST training West Yorkshire.

I am a CS, ES, and currently the RCEM College Tutor for EM trainees in York.

I have supervised a number of trainees who have returned to work after periods of absence and realise the importance of a bespoke, well structured and monitored return to the workplace.

I have had two periods of maternity leave myself, following both of which I returned to work with no planning and an awful lot of luck! As a result I understand some of the challenges faced by returning doctors plus the importance of the work done by SuppoRTT, and I am really pleased to be championing it in my Trust.