

## £7.5 million to digitally schedule shifts and save NHS staff time

- The investment is part of a £26 million national fund to have all NHS doctors, nurses and other clinical staff on e-rostering systems by 2021, shown to be particularly invaluable during the pandemic
- E-rostering can save time and effort when redeploying staff, digitally matching staff skillset with patient care requirements and geography, while managing working hours and pay to save clinicians time and effort every week

NHS hospitals, clinics and pharmacies across 38 more trusts will be able to save staff time and money by rolling out digital shift planning, known as e-rostering systems, thanks to £7.5 million government funding.

During the pandemic, e-rostering has proven instrumental when redeploying staff, reporting absences and managing working hours and pay information, notably for vaccination centres. NHS trusts have reported an increased appetite across clinicians to implement e-rostering as a result.

E-rostering allows clinicians to select shifts digitally, providing them with more flexibility and more efficient work schedules. Specific skillsets can more easily be matched to the right shifts when redeploying staff using digital staff passports. The passports are currently being piloted and can save staff and HR teams time by providing a verified record of identity, employment and training on their smartphone. These have been used during the COVID-19 response to redeploy staff quickly to support areas in need.

A 2018 study (see [footnote](#)) showed one of the functions of e-rostering – caseload scheduling – could save each NHS clinician 34 minutes a week, which can add up to hundreds of hours per trust. By planning routes between healthcare settings or to patients' homes for home visits, clinical resource can be geographically matched so NHS staff can spend less time travelling and more time with patients.

Minister of State for Care Helen Whately said:

People are at the heart of the NHS. Our doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers are the greatest asset we have. I'm determined to help NHS trusts get the best out of our talented healthcare workers and give patients the care they deserve.

We're delivering on another commitment in the NHS Long Term Plan to support the use of electronic rosters. E-rostering is a crucial tool to make the most of our dedicated healthcare professionals' time for looking after patients – something which is needed more than ever during this pandemic.

Managing shifts more effectively also makes it easier to work

flexibly, giving our hardworking clinicians a better work/life balance. I'm pleased even more trusts will now benefit thanks to this £7.5 million funding boost.

I'm excited to see how this technology can be implemented in the future, not just in hospitals and pharmacies, but in social care too – making sure everyone gets the right care at the right time.

The trusts benefiting from this latest funding include mental health and community, specialist and general acute trusts.

The technology can also cut costs for the NHS by reducing the reliance on staffing agencies.

Five NHS trusts will be using the software to also schedule patient appointments.

The £26 million national rollout to 68 trusts in total is part of the NHS Long Term Plan ambition to equip all shifts for doctors, nurses, Allied Health Professionals, health scientists and pharmacists with e-rostering systems by the end of 2021.

Four NHS trusts which received funding earlier in the rollout have created the North West London Collaborative Staff Bank, a shared pool of available clinicians who can fill shift vacancies to match surges in demand from the pandemic and wider winter pressures.

This is part of a wider strategy by NHS England and Improvement and NHSX to build a collaborative and flexible workforce through the use of technology. The Department of Health and Social Care will continue to work with NHS trusts to improve and upgrade their workforce deployment systems.

Anna Stabler, Executive Chief Nurse at North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust said:

We're delighted to have been awarded this funding to help us develop a community workforce deployment system for our nurses and Allied Health Care Professionals working in the community. The funding will be utilised to deliver electronic rostering and case management systems that will in turn benefit our staff and patients alike.

It will mean our staff can support patients in a more timely manner, whilst reducing their travel time and improve their working arrangements. We're very much looking forward to getting this piece of work underway.

<b>NHS organisation</b>	<b>Bid type</b>	<b>Professional group</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Total award ('000)</b>	<b>Additional trusts involved</b>
<b>Cambridgeshire Community Services</b>	e-Rostering and e-Scheduling Implementation	Nurses and AHPs	East of England	Community	£74	
<b>Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Medic Rostering	Doctors	East of England	Acute	£290	
<b>James Paget University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Norfolk and Waveney Collaborative Bank	Multi-professional	East of England	Acute	£520	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust
<b>James Paget University NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Community e-Rostering Project – includes interface with patient information system	Multi-professional	East of England	Community	See above	
<b>Sutton Health and Care (SHC) and Surrey Downs Health and Care (SDHC)– hosted by Epsom and St Helier Trust</b>	E-Allocate – SHC and SDHC (ESHT)	Multi-professional	London	Community	£36	SWL, Surrey Heartlands (for Surrey Downs Health and Care)
<b>King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Medical e-Rostering Project	Doctors	London	Acute	£336	
<b>University College London Hospital</b>	e-Rostering System	Doctors	London	Acute	£203	
<b>Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Medical Rostering Improvement	Doctors	London	Mental health	£62	West London NHS Trust
<b>East London NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Medics Rostering	Doctors	London	Mental health	£190	
<b>Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust</b>	AHP job planning and rostering	AHPs	London	Acute	£218	

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<b>University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust</b>	e-roster for AHPs and medics	AHPs and doctors	Midlands	Acute	£154	
<b>The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Competency-based rostering	Doctors	Midlands	Acute	£127	
<b>George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust</b>	e-Rostering	Doctors	Midlands	Acute	£386	
<b>Dudley Integrated Health and Care NHS Trust</b>	Rostering and job-planning for community staff	Multi-professional	Midlands	Community	£111	
<b>Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Community Workforce Deployment System Project	Multi-professional	Midlands	Specialist	£237	
<b>The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust</b>	AHP and Pharmacy	AHPs and pharmacists	Midlands	Acute	£491	
<b>Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust</b>	e-Rostering System Project – North Cumbria Inpatient Wards and Trust Wide Community Services	Multi-professional	North East and Yorkshire	Mental health	£417	
<b>Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Medical Workforce e-Rostering Project	Doctors	North East and Yorkshire	Acute	£140	
<b>York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Medical e-Rostering Project	Doctors	North East and Yorkshire	Acute	£258	
<b>Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Integrated Scheduling System	Multi-professional	North East and Yorkshire	Acute	£200	
<b>The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Improving Workforce Deployment Project (IWDP)	Nurses	North West	Specialist	£280	
<b>Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Looking Beyond the Roster Care Needs First – Mersey Care and North West Boroughs	Nurses and AHPs	North West	Community	£300	North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
<b>North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Community Workforce Deployment System	Nurses and AHPs	North West	Acute	£618	

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<b>Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Medical e-Rostering	Doctors	North West	Acute	£133	
<b>Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust</b>	e-Rostering and e-Job Planning for Medical Workforce	Doctors	North West	Specialist	£97	
<b>Lancashire teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Collaborative AHP Staff Bank	AHPs	North West	Acute	£505	Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundations Trust, East Lancashire Hospitals Trust, Morcombe Bay Foundation Trust
<b>Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust</b>	e-Rostering Project for Clinical Professionals	AHPs, pharmacists and HCS (non-medical)	North West	Acute	£367	
<b>Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust</b>	e-rostering	Multi-professional	North West	Mental health	£116	
<b>Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust</b>	Clinical e-Rostering	Doctors	South East	Acute	£118	
<b>Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Medical e-Rostering Solution	Doctors	South East	Acute	£285	
<b>Ashford and St Peter's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</b>	Workforce Deployment System Project	Doctors	South East	Acute	£220	
				<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,489</b>	

Footnote: A May 2018 Newton Europe Consultancy review of community services found that route planning and geographic matching of clinical resource and demand could save travel time by 20% and 30% respectively. The use of scheduling solutions could, assuming a conservative estimate of 10% lower travel time, save 34 minutes per clinician per week, allowing them to see more patients.