

## **LBR Contract Briefing Prioritisation in 2011/12**

NHS East Midlands commissions learning beyond registration (LBR) via eleven higher education institutions (HEI) funded through the non-medical education and training levy (NMET). The contracted LBR provision has been very successful in providing education and training to many staff across the East Midlands; so much so that the demand for education cannot be matched by the available resource. In order to manage the significant demand for LBR more effectively, NHS East Midlands has agreed an LBR prioritisation policy which will be enforced in the 2011/12 contract year, the final year of the current contract.

Despite the high demand it may still be possible to obtain support for post graduate level study in the 2011/12 academic year via the LBR contract and applications continue to be welcome. This is particularly true of applications for study in priority areas (please see below).

### **Student Eligibility**

LBR contract funding is available to NHS employed non-medical, professional healthcare staff. There are specific criteria about exactly who is and who isn't eligible and further information about this is available on request.

### **Priority Areas**

In order to ensure that the education is available to meet the priorities of service, certain modules and courses have been given a notional 'ring-fence' allocation. The areas identified as a priority are:

- Non-medical prescribing
- Supporting practice learning
- Cancer and palliative care modules
- Children's Pathway modules: Respiratory and cancer
- Gastroenterology modules
- Pain management: Adult Acute Settings
- Contraception & Sexual health (midwifery)
- Antenatal Screening (midwifery)
- Best practice Perineal care (midwifery)
- Workbased learning (midwifery)
- High Dependant Care Childbearing women (midwifery)
- Research & Ethical Issues (midwifery)
- Supporting Learning & Assessment (midwifery)
- Management in healthcare (dietetics)
- Leadership in HC Practice (dietetics)
- Leading Clinical Teams (dietetics)
- Trauma and Orthopaedic Modules
- PPCI and Stroke modules
- Examination of Neonate
- Infection Control
- Immediate Management of Trauma Care
- Adult Critical Care
- Cont Practice in Adult Critical Care, Respiratory, Cardiovascular & Renal Disorders
- Cont Practice in Adult Critical Care, Trauma, Neuro & Endocrine Disorders

- Principles of Mgt of the Highly Dependant / Critically Ill Neonate, Infant & Child
- MSc Advanced Clinical Practice
- MSc Advanced Nursing
- BSc Hons Health Care Studies - Adult Critical Care Pathway
- BSc Hons Health Care Studies - Critical Care (Children's Intensive care, High Dependency Care, Neonatal
- Stroke

This list is provisional and will be confirmed on 14 March.

For those modules and programmes identified as a priority for workforce development University has been given the authority to allocate a cohort worth of Modular Registrations to provide for that need. Any Modular Registrations not utilised against this allocation (i.e. insufficient applicants) will be re-allocated to other modules and programmes within the HEIs wider portfolio.

Further, it is recognised that, whilst NHS East Midlands only fund LBR on a modular basis, some full programmes are a priority area. As such, where a number of modules combine to create a programme that is either a priority area or where modules are intrinsic to each other and cannot be separated, learners can book on to these simultaneously.

### **Process Changes**

The LBR Contract has been very effective, both in delivering education to large numbers of staff across the East Midlands and securing funding for education during periods of financial constraint. However, the changing nature of the NHS and NHS architecture requires a more flexible approach. In order to achieve this 'flexibility' the LBR Strategy Group has asked the HEI's to identify 10% of their allocated resource to support transformation of services. This resource will be made available to the LHC Lead for LBR who will work in partnership with service and HEIs to deliver transformational training. As with the prioritised modules, any under-utilisation will be made available to the HEIs wider resource. The request for transformational training will be made by service to the LHC lead accompanied by evidence detailing the expected benefits to service and the local population and how this will be evaluated. The LHC Lead will then work with partner HEIs to identify potential provider university.

Once agreed this provision must be recorded by the HEI against the allocated resource and evaluated by service for its transformational impact and a report on results submitted to the LBR Strategy Group.

Recognising that NHS East Midlands funds education on a modular basis (and does not guarantee to fund a learner throughout their programme) it is also recognised that there may be benefit to a learner completing a programme of study.

HEIs are therefore given the flexibility to allow students to register for a programme (and manage their resource accordingly). Whilst NHS East Midlands cannot guarantee to be able to fund all the constituent modules it does accept the premise that continuation of study is a valuable principle. This will also help HEIs be aware of, and manage future commitment of, their resource.

## **Dissertations**

Dissertations are undoubtedly an important part of a learners' education, and there is no desire or intention to undermine their value. However, at a time when demand for learning exceeds the available resource, it is necessary to consider the value of central funding for one learner's dissertation over another getting the opportunity to commence their studies. Therefore, the LBR contract will only support dissertation modules under the following criteria:

- a) The dissertation element is integral to the award and the award is registerable or recordable with a regulatory body (ie HPC, NMC).
- b) The dissertation is part of a programme in a workforce priority area.
- c) The dissertation is key to the delivery of a local workforce priority. Such a level of priority would be adjudged via an individual request for support from an organisations' lead for LBR, giving specific examples of why this learner's dissertation should be supported and what they will bring to the organisation as a result. Such exemptions will be limited in terms of proportionality for the organisation and availability of resource as agreed by members of the LBR Strategy Group. In light of the rapidly changing environment of the NHS the case for a dissertation to be supported can be made at any point in the financial year.
- d) LHC LBR Leads have the right of adjudication in specific individual cases at their discretion.

## **PhDs**

The LBR Contract has to date sponsored a limited number of individuals to undertake PhD studies. Whilst any individual currently on a course of PhD studies shall, within the confines of the contract, be supported to continue their studies, no new PhD applications will be approved with immediate effect.