

Providing independent strategic clinical advice

Opportunity to Join the North West Clinical Senate Councils

The two North West Clinical Senate Councils; Greater Manchester, Lancashire & South Cumbria (GMLSC) and Cheshire & Merseyside (C&M); are now recruiting for new members.

These small multi-professional groups have memberships of approximately 35 people, the majority being clinicians in roles with patient contact. They provide overall leadership and manage the Senates' business. They maintain strategic clinical overview across their respective geographies and are responsible for the formulation and provision of advice that is sought from the Senates, drawing on the views and opinions of the wider Assembly as required.

Clinical Senates are non-statutory advisory bodies, that are hosted by NHS England but that operate independently of it. This independence is a core principle of Senates way of working. The focus of Clinical Senates' functions is that they provide impartial clinical advice which is in the best interest of the population, not of organisations or professional interests. Objectivity and neutrality are essential to Clinical Senates' credibility.

“As a Senate member you act as a critical friend – mentoring , advising and supporting colleagues , looking at wicked problems and developing plans to improve services and outcomes . It’s a vital function for the NHS . Sir Bruce Keogh has called us *the conscience of the NHS* . It’s certainly a privilege .”
(Prof Donal O’Donoghue, Consultant Nephrologist and GMLSC Senate Council Chair)

Members of the Councils play a key role in:

- Supporting ongoing improvement of quality outcomes across the North West.
- Applying professional knowledge and expertise in considering issues of strategic importance to improving health, healthcare and social care in the respective geographies.
- Consulting with the Clinical Assembly to ensure that advice is informed by a breadth of clinical opinion, communicating openly and effectively with professional constituencies.
- Debating and agreeing recommendations to statutory bodies where there is any divergence of clinical opinion.
- Actively participating in the work of the senate and committing the time necessary to understand the issues being considered to ensure participation is effective.
- Modelling the values and apply the principles agreed by the Clinical Senate to guide the formulation of advice.

- Presenting the Clinical Senate’s views to different stakeholders; this could involve representing the Clinical Senate in a public setting.
- Championing the Clinical Senate’s recommendations and assisting in communication with the wider clinical community.
- Setting aside organisational or institutional interest in order to consider a broader perspective of what is in patients’ best interest in this area.

This letter invites applications for membership of the Clinical Senates’ Councils from current members of the Clinical Senate Assembly. Candidates are expected to meet the following criteria:

- An experienced professional actively involved in health, healthcare or social care delivery and able to command the respect of clinical and non-clinical professionals, patients and the public.
- Demonstrate a continual commitment to quality, promoting high standards to consistently improve outcomes for the population.
- In depth understanding of opportunities and challenges in improving health and social care across the respective geography (i.e. GMLSC or C&M).
- Demonstrate commitment to listening, involving, respecting and learning from the contribution of others.
- Ability to develop effective multi-professional relationships at a leadership level and across boundaries.
- Ability to act independently and with integrity.
- Availability to attend Senate Council meetings (approximately six to ten meetings per annum) and a willingness to contribute review or opinion outside of those.

The time commitment is anticipated to be no more than 1 day a month for GMLSC and no more than half a day a month for C&M. There is an expectation that members will be released from their host organisations to undertake these duties. Participation in other activities outside the council meetings may also be required, e.g. attending stakeholder meetings, evidence and information review.

The aim is to ensure that Council membership as a whole reflects a breath of expertise across care settings, clinical professions, the wider system and geographically. In particular therefore, we are particularly keen to appoint members from the following areas:

“Being a member of the Senate has helped me to develop a deeper understanding of the way that health and social care systems operate.

It has given me a much better grasp of the challenges that we face because I have had to think about many issues that fall outside the scope of my usual field of work. “

(Phil McEvoy, Managing Director, Six Degrees Social Enterprise and GMLSC Senate Council member)

I have really enjoyed the interchange of perspectives between different specialties and professions helping NHS organisations plan and develop services"

(Dr Stephen Watkins, Director of Public Health, Stockport Council and GMLSC Senate Council member)

- Allied Health Professionals
- Nursing
- Social care
- Patient and public representatives

However, selection will be made firstly on the basis of prospective members' skills and expertise and secondly to ensure a balanced group in those terms.

To apply, please submit a written statement regarding how you feel you meet the required criteria for qualifications, knowledge and experience, as detailed in the attached job description and person specification (maximum 1000 words). This should be sent to Caroline Baines, Senate Manager at carolinebaines@nhs.net Candidates' skills, capabilities, behaviours, and values will be assessed on the interview/assessment days as detailed below.

The closing date for applications is close of play on Monday 4th September 2017 with interview/assessment dates on:

- Monday 25th September for GMLSC
- Monday 9th October for C&M

Further information can be obtained from either the Senate Chairs or the Senate Manager, Caroline Baines (carolinebaines@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely



Prof Donal O'Donoghue
Chair, GMLSC Clinical Senate



Dr Cecil Kullu
Chair, C&M Clinical Senate