

## North West Allied Health Professions (AHP) Network

### Terms of Reference

<b>Purpose</b>	The North West (NW) AHP Network provides professional leadership, advice and expertise, to enable the national, regional and local strategic and policy agenda to be influenced by AHPs. The forum engages AHPs in a collaborative network, providing support for the AHP workforce to deliver excellent healthcare and health improvement for patients and service users.
<b>Specific Functions</b>	<p>The NW AHP Network will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work collaboratively with other professional networks through the North West Centre for Professional Workforce Development (CPWD)</li> <li>• Promote and support clinical leadership and engagement across AHPs</li> <li>• Communicate, consult and engage with a wide range of AHPs, through the NW AHP website, bulletins and local AHP forums.</li> <li>• Support the development and implementation of the NW AHP Workforce Board work plan to ensure that the AHP workforce has the right skills, values and behaviours.</li> <li>• Drive innovation through the sharing of good practice</li> <li>• Support service commissioners by identifying AHP solutions to local commissioning priorities.</li> <li>• Implement national AHP priorities through local discussions and analysis.</li> </ul>
<b>Membership</b>	<p>The membership of the NW AHP Network will primarily be composed of AHPs, but other professional representatives and strategic leads will also be eligible to attend meetings. Members will be drawn from the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS providers of care (acute, community and mental health)</li> <li>• Non NHS providers of NHS funded health and social care</li> <li>• Local authority providers of health and social care</li> <li>• Education providers</li> <li>• NHS commissioning organisations</li> </ul> <p>Membership will be inclusive of all professions within the AHP family (see appendix 1).  NHS providers will be invited to nominate an AHP representative, who will form the core membership of the network. Other AHPs members will form a flexible membership.</p>
<b>Responsibilities of core members</b>	<p>Members will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the NW AHP Network to other AHPs and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Facilitate communications from the NW AHP Network to AHPs</li> </ul>

	<p>within their own organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistently demonstrate a belief and commitment to the values of AHPs</li> <li>• Contribute effectively to discussions and respect the views of other members</li> <li>• Support specific pieces of work which the network chooses to undertake</li> </ul> <p>In addition to this, core members will be expected to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend 2 out of 3 meetings per year, as a minimum</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency and format of meetings</b>	The NW AHP Network will meet three times a year at central North West locations. Meetings will run for half a day, except for an annual Spring conference, which will be a full day.
<b>Chair</b>	A chair will be nominated from the membership. The term of office will be 2 years.
<b>Secretariat</b>	The North West Workforce Programme Support Officer will arrange meetings and circulate relevant documents for meetings. Notes of meetings will be organised from within the membership.
<b>Strategic links</b>	<p>The NW AHP Network will develop formal links with the NW AHP Workforce Board and will develop relationships with a wide range of other stakeholders, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other professional networks (e.g. healthcare science, pharmacy)</li> <li>• Regional commissioning organisations and groups</li> <li>• NW Local Education and Training Board (LETB) and local workforce and education groups</li> <li>• NW Workforce modernisation hub</li> <li>• Health and well-being boards</li> <li>• Clinical senates and networks</li> <li>• Academic health science networks</li> <li>• Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA)</li> <li>• Innovation programmes</li> <li>• National AHP leadership team</li> </ul>
<b>Network steering group</b>	<p>A network steering group will direct the activities of the NW AHP Network by horizon scanning to identify key topics for discussion, planning the agenda for meetings and ensuring that the membership is inclusive of all AHPs across the region.</p> <p>Membership of the network steering group will be drawn from the wider network membership and will include the chair of the network and the NW AHP Workforce Lead.</p>

**Appendix 1**  
**List of AHP professions**

Art, drama and music therapy  
Diagnostic Radiography  
Dietetics  
Occupational Therapy  
Operating Department Practice  
Orthoptics  
Paramedics  
Physiotherapy  
Podiatry  
Prosthetics and Orthotics  
Radiotherapy  
Speech and Language Therapy