

First Digital Staff Passport issued to support Greater Manchester Cancer Services

The Greater Manchester (GM) Cancer Alliance have seen their first issued and verified NHS COVID-19 Digital Staff Passport to temporarily deploy a member of staff to aid the delivery of cancer care through a surgical operating list.

The Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership is a key player in the utilisation of the COVID-19 Digital Staff Passport (DSP).

Leading the way is GM Cancer Alliance, who initiated a pilot to align the DSP capabilities with the needs of their cancer pathways.



Effective Response to Service Need

On 20th January, Susannah Penney, Associate Medical Director for the Alliance, presented an urgent workforce need whereby a urological operating list at Manchester Royal Infirmary required a surgeon. With only a matter of days to address the shortage, the situation called for an efficient and flexible approach to staff movement to respond to an urgent staff shortage.

Arie Parnham, Urology Surgeon based at The Christie, was highlighted to perform the operating list. All that was required was to undertake the required pre-employment checks prior to the temporary deployment.

With The Christie and Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) already being registered organisations, a virtual meeting was set up whereby Arie came together with Lauren and Matt from their respective HR teams. Within minutes, the passport was issued and verified, the surgical list could go ahead, and the delivery of safe and effective cancer care was secured. Taking into consideration the issuing of honorary contracts or letters of authority can take anything up to three weeks, a DSP was the far more time effective and seamless option.

Susannah Penney, Associate Medical Director for the alliance said, ***'It made the whole process extremely easy and robust!'***

Arie Parnham, Urology Consultant Surgeon said, ***'The process of getting my Digital Staff Passport was really quick and simple and great that it is all stored on my smart phone. I have previously provided support to services in Greater Manchester and London and knowing I can now do this so easily using the Digital Staff Passport makes the process much more efficient.'***

Lauren, Resourcing Lead at The Christie said, ***'I found using the Connect.Me app very easy to use. I have issued a number of credentials through virtual meetings successfully and the process of issuing the credentials has been straightforward. The link between Connect.Me and ESR makes this really easy to do.'***

Matthew, Medical Resourcing Team Leader at MFT said, ***'Easy to use from a HR side and links in well with ESR. App for employees easily downloadable from the Google and Apple App Stores. Virtual appointments allow for a quick and efficient process. I would recommend using the Digital Staff Passport for anyone.'***

Looking Forward

Jess Docksey, GM Cancer Workforce & Education Project Manager, explains ***‘Ultimately, our aim is to understand how our cancer workforce can benefit from using the DSP to promote learning across all cancer pathways. We believe the product not only allows us to move staff seamlessly to support current elective pressure, but it also lends itself to helping us to develop and upskill teams, ensure equitable service provision and support staff retention.’***

GM Cancer understand that staff engagement is crucial. Jess confirmed that ***‘we are working with our lead cancer nurses and senior nursing teams to ensure this great opportunity is used to develop a future proofing model for our workforce’***. The pilot scope remains at temporary, voluntary movement, with line manager approval required to protect service delivery.

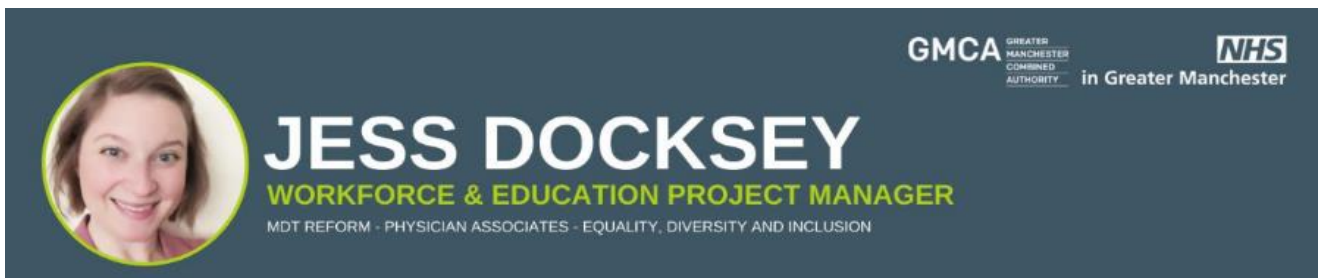
Jess is on hand to support the teams through this next stage. ***‘We’ve developed a toolkit of useful resources to support teams and we’re currently exploring use cases with various workforce groups including CNS’, Trainee ACPs, Cancer Support Workers and the imaging network.’***


[Download the toolkit!](#)


Further Information

To find out more, visit the [DSP support website](#) and the [GM Cancer Alliance DSP webpage](#)

If you’d like to know more about this work and feel you and your team would benefit from a DSP, please get in touch with Jess Docksey, Workforce & Education Project Manager.
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