

REGIONAL NETWORK GROUPS

Terms of Reference



Purpose of regional or specialty networking groups

To facilitate opportunities for Play Specialists to: -

- Come together
- Network
- Learn from each other
- Share Practice
- Gain advice and support
- Participate in CPD activities

This list is not exhaustive.

The group membership can cover a region or specific areas of practice such as lone workers, play staff from Hospices or working in the community or healthcare specialities.

Membership of the network groups are voluntary, and groups are autonomous of the Society of Health Play Specialist (SoHPS).

Disclaimer

SoHPS do not take responsibility for membership of the groups or the actions they may take unless it breaches the SoHPS Professional Standards (details below).

Group leads / Organisers / Co-ordinators

The group lead, organiser or co-ordinator of the individual Networking Group can be a Registered Health Play Specialist (HPS), A Registered Child Life Specialist (International Groups only) or from a recognised Healthcare organisation such as an Operational Delivery Network, a board member of the Society of Health Play Specialists or other appropriate healthcare professional.

The group will identify how often it meets, the purpose of the group and the membership. The group co-ordinators will agree how they share the information agreed or discussed in the meetings, this can be in the form of minutes. If minutes are taken, ensure that confidentiality is maintained when sharing information about practice especially when referring to children, families, or colleagues discussed in the meeting and disseminated in any minutes.

The meetings can be Face-to face, via a secure on-line platform or a blend of these.

The organiser will maintain a list of the members and their contact details in safe storage on a password protected device.

Membership criteria

Membership must include registered health play specialists.

Individual groups can agree other membership criteria, for example, Child Life Specialists, Health Play Workers (Assistants/Nursery Nurses), Health Youth Workers or other unregistered play staff.

Benefits of networking groups

- Linking with regional or specialist healthcare settings.
- Sharing best practice.
- Support for and from, members of the group whether a lone practitioner or a larger play service.
- Continued Professional Development activities.
- Facilitate shared care between settings in the region (handover information relating to shared care patients to provide the best possible service, support and outcome for the child and family).
- Sharing new developments or trends.

Equality and Diversity

Groups must consider individual needs and make reasonable adjustments to facilitate and encourage inclusion.

Maintaining the SoHPS Professional Standards as a group and as individual members

Consideration should be given to the following SoHPS Professional Standards when forming a group, identifying the purpose of the group and ongoing facilitation of the group including planning, during and sharing information in meetings.

Communication

9:3 Build and sustain professional relationships as both an independent practitioner and collaboratively as a member of a team.

9:6 Understand the need to work collaboratively with those who provide services in and across different sectors. Work in a collaborative and cooperative manner with other professionals, respecting and recognising their expertise and contributions.

9.8 When communicating with colleagues and other health care professionals you must use secure forms of communication as advised by your trust or organisation. Independent practitioners must ensure that when communicating with professional colleagues they uphold the confidentiality of their clients.

Networking

7.3 Be responsible for your use of social media and networking sites. You must use all forms of communication appropriately and responsibly, including social media and networking websites. Breaches of confidentiality or propriety can invalidate your professional registration.

7.4 When sharing information on media sharing networks and social networking sites, ensure that all information you share is accurate and does not mislead the public.

13:7 Recognise and utilise the role of other professionals.

Minutes

10.3 Keep all records securely protecting them from loss, damaged or unauthorised access.

Reflection

11:3 Recognise the value of supervision and other methods of reviewing, reflecting on and evaluating practice.

CPD

3:4 Understand the requirements to keep skills and knowledge up to date through appropriate continual professional development (CPD) activities and continuous professional registration. Be responsible for developing and maintaining a profile of professional practice.