

**SHA & PCT Chief Executives**

Quarry House  
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Date: 09 August 2006

Gateway reference: 6997

Dear Chief Executive

**Teaching PCTs**

As you may know, newly-reconfigured PCTs did not automatically inherit the right to the “teaching” title and logo of any of their constituent organisations. Teaching PCTs unaffected by reconfiguration are entitled to continue to use the title.

Ministers have expressed the view that new PCTs wishing to retain the title should be allowed to do so providing they meet appropriate criteria.

Given the shift in decision-making and budgets to SHAs, applications for teaching status (which were previously managed by the former DH regional offices and approved by the Secretary of State) should now be managed and approved locally. SHAs will, of course, wish to consider how any applications might be assessed against local priorities, but a set of possible criteria is set out at Annex A. Central funding for teaching PCTs ended in 2005/06.

Successful PCTs will need to have their establishment orders amended to reflect the consequent change in name and logo. Please contact Peter Burgin on [peter.burgin@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.burgin@dh.gsi.gov.uk) if you need more information about this process. Once the establishment order has been changed, the PCT should call the NHS identity helpline on 020 7972 5250/5261 who will provide the new artwork for their logo free of charge.

Background information about teaching PCTs is set out at Annex B. The full document is available at [www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/03/54/51/04035451.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/03/54/51/04035451.pdf) For any other questions about this letter, please contact John Cowles on [john.cowles@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.cowles@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Loveland', written in a cursive style.

Paul Loveland  
Head of Education, Training and Development

## **Annex A**

### **Indicative Criteria for teaching PCTS**

- The needs of the PCT and its population
- The vision, aims and objectives of the proposed tPCT
- The degree of support for the proposal
  - by the local NHS
  - by non-NHS organisations
  - by Higher Education providers
- The capacity of the organisation to deliver and sustain its work programme
- The impact on services, recruitment, and staff development
- The ability of the organisation to demonstrate effectiveness, value for money and financial sustainability
- Demonstrate Board level leadership and involvement
- Demonstrate plans for joint working with other Teaching PCTs
- Confirmation of partnership working with the national Teaching PCT network

## **Annex B**

WHAT IS A TEACHING PCT? (Extract from *Teaching PCTs* (Department of Health, 2001))

### General

A teaching PCT will be a statutory NHS body based upon the existing PCT model. All PCTs are expected to develop a learning culture and role within their organisation. The teaching PCT will bring specific additional capacity into their locality to support all healthcare professionals and PCTs in the healthcare community. Through the utilisation of educational and research activities, the expectation is that a teaching PCT will be able to provide an alternative portfolio career option for GPs and other health care professionals. Such alternative arrangements are expected to assist the recruitment and retention of essential health care professionals in areas that are currently under-resourced.

An essential aim of a teaching PCT will be to develop posts that are both clinical and rooted in teaching, research or development. The primary aim must be to provide additional patient care through the recruitment of extra clinicians complemented with the development of learning, sharing of knowledge and collaboration in research.

The intention is that teaching PCTs will not be confined to traditional teaching activities such as post-graduate clinical training, continuing professional development and lifelong learning. Teaching PCTs will also be engaged in a variety of other activities that encompass the ethos of learning, development, research, dissemination and delivery of good practice. All of these activities will be undertaken both within their own organisation and with appropriate partners.

Teaching PCTs will also

- Show a partnership approach
- Foster Clinical Education
- Host Research Management
- Support Continuing Professional Development