

Fellowship Report

I thoroughly enjoyed my 12-month fellowship role as a 'Transformation Fellow' in Warwickshire North. I initially started working with Dr Imogen Stavely, collaborating with gastroenterology colleagues from George Elliot Hospital on a referral pathway for 'Abnormal Liver Function Tests'. Weekly meetings were held virtually, and we finalised a referral pathway for all GP practices in Warwickshire North. Due to COVID restrictions, the pathway required further input from gastroenterology but were unavailable for the final approval process. The project provided an opportunity for primary and secondary care to work together to improve patient safety and clinical outcomes. In addition, I learned how clinical pathways are created within CCGs.

I regularly attended fortnightly CCG meetings, this included 'engagement' meetings with George Elliot Hospital clinical leads. During my 12 months in post, the CCG was undergoing significant change and Coventry and Warwickshire (North and South) CCG were merging into one CCG. Initially, there were some apprehensions within the Warwickshire North CCG members, as the main concern was regarding whether North Warwickshire members will still have a voice within the CCG. There was always an opportunity to be involved in discussions, learn how disagreements are managed and the etiquette required as CCG chair.

As a cohort of clinical fellows, we regularly met up virtually for our monthly fellowship meetings. The meetings gave us an opportunity to chair the meeting, share ideas and update each other on our ongoing projects. The meetings also included a talk from a guest speaker with Q+A opportunities.

I am most proud of the Phoenix programme. Dr Catherine Roberts gifted me an opportunity to take lead on this programme to motivate and inspire mid-career GPs within Coventry and Warwickshire. The training hub secured funding for this programme, and it was agreed to implement project virtually. My role was to create a job description, produce the job advert, liaise with the programme organiser, and was actively involved in the recruitment of a GP lead for the programme. The Phoenix programme has been a success and I hope it continues for all mid-career GPs in the locality.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a fellow. I worked with supportive members of the fellowship team, we were championed within the CCG and were perceived to be valuable team members. I was inspired by working with many experienced clinicians and opened my eyes to potential leadership opportunities for primary care clinicians. The fellowship programme provided an allocated fund for professional development. I used the fund to enrol on the 'Oxford Executive Leadership Programme' and 'New to Partnership' programme for new GP partners. A highlight for me was using the fund to attend the RCGP National Conference 2021 in Liverpool.

I hope the fellowship programme will continue for the future cohort, as it allowed me an opportunity to gain leadership skills, work collaboratively with secondary colleagues and attain communication skills required to work within an 'Integrated Care System'.

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