SEL FIRST CONTACT PRACTITIONER (FCP) BULLETIN - JULY 2026

Welcome to the SEL First Contact Practice bulletin. As your FCP Leads for SEL, we hope to keep you updated on the latest FCP news and highlight the most frequently asked questions. In this edition we will be summarising the FCP training pathway. Please do email us with your FCP related queries:

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Latest Updates:

- **Hot off the press! FCP roadmaps and training information have moved to the NHS learning hub:** Catalogue. The roadmaps have been 'refreshed' and can be viewed once you have created a log in (if you do not already have one) for the NHS learning hub.
- A recent GIRFT report looking at the evaluation of the current provision of FCP MSK services within primary care in England (March 2026) have been completed and the initial report is now available to view: Click here.to view.
- For individuals working in primary care who would like to support learners as educational supervisors, can apply for the multi-professional supervisors course here.
- We ran a successful FCP forum on the 30th of June 2026 - further FCP forum dates will be sent out very soon; please keep your eye on the SELWDH Training Page for this and other training opportunities.

Reminder of the Education and Training Required to Become a FCP

AHPs wanting to train as FCPs will need to apply for a funded Higher Education Institute (HEI) FCP training programme which are nationally commissioned and meet the agreed standards for allied health professionals (AHPs) to demonstrate the skills and knowledge needed to practice safely and effectively in FCP roles within primary care.

Fig 2.

Application to HEI for First Contact Practice Course

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HEI courses vary in length, mode of delivery and certification awarded upon completion

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Completed required e-learning modules

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Submit Learning Needs Analysis (LNA) as part of application

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Based on LNA, HEI determine FCP training pathway, either:

Supported portfolio route	Taught route
HEI work with learner to review existing evidence of their knowledge and skills, if required, oversee/deliver additional learning	HEI deliver structured modules; learners must complete all aspects of the course

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Both routes have been mapped against the Knowledge, Skills and Attributes (KSA) required to meet the requirements of the stage 1 and 2 of the Roadmaps to Practice

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HEI provide certification of completion of their respected FCP course

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Can be employed as FCP working independently

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Continuation to ACP by completing the advance practice master's programme: **Click here to view the page.**

Supported Portfolio Route

- ✓ Recommended if learner already has considerable experience in primary care/completed relevant master's level work/modules
- ✓ HEI will determine via LNA the appropriate route for learner
- ✓ Learner supported through process by education provider
- ✓ Certificate of Completion of the course from the HEI will be proof of FCP verification

Taught route

- ✓ Recommended if learner has no experience in primary care or Master's level experience
- ✓ HEI will determine via LNA the appropriate route for learner
- ✓ Formal modules and level 7 written work will need to be completed
- ✓ Learner and supported through process by education provider
- ✓ Certificate of Completion of the course from the HEI will be proof of FCP verification

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Table 1. Details of fully funded taught courses

All courses require 5 years of post graduate experience (for MSK, must include at least 3 years MSK experience)
To apply applicants should contact their preferred education provider/higher education institute (HEI) directly and complete a Learning Needs Analysis (LNA). Please check the university websites for up-to-date information and courses.

University	Profession	Next intake	Duration	Credits/award	Mode of delivery
HSU (Health sciences University, previously AECC) PGCert First Contact Practice | Health Sciences University	All FCP	Sept 26 Mar 27	12 months Part-time	PG Cert	Blended: Online and in person
Bradford First Contact Practitioner (Musculoskeletal) PGCert - University of Bradford	MSK only	Sept 26	12 months Part-time	PG Cert	Online
Coventry First Contact Practitioner (Musculoskeletal or Paramedic) | Coventry University	MSK, Paramedic	Sept 26 Jan 27	12 months Part-time	PG Cert	Blended: Online and in person
Cumbria PgC Practice Development: Paramedic First Contact Practitioner - University of Cumbria PgC Practice Development: Physiotherapy (Musculoskeletal) First Contact Practitioner - University of Cumbria	Paramedic MSK	Sept 26 Jan 27	12 months Part-time	PG Cert	Online
Hertfordshire Search | Courses | Uni of Herts	MSK, OT, Dietician, Paramedic	Feb 27	12 months	45 credits	Online
Essex Postgraduate Certificate First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice Degree | University of Essex First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice | University of Essex	MSK only MSK - stage 1	Oct 26 Oct 26	12 months	PG Cert 30 credits	Online
Teesside First Contact Practitioner (Paramedic) UCPPD course | Teesside University	Paramedic only	Sept 26 Jan 27	12 months	40 credits	Online
UCLAN AHP First Contact Practice in Primary Care, Short Course - UCLan	All FCP	Jan 27	12 months	40 credits	Online

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Essential Resources

- FCP information and roadmaps have moved to the NHS learning hub: Catalogue
- First Contact Practitioners - Roadmaps to practice | NHS England | Workforce, training and education (previous)
- First Contact Practice FAQs | NHS England | Workforce, training and education
- Education Providers of FCP training | NHS England | Workforce, training and education
- Other Clinical - FCP – SELWDH
- Training Courses – SELWDH
- First contact physiotherapy | The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

Support and Contacts

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