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**Fact Sheet - Assistance Available for Tier 2 Trainee GPs**

* Tier 2 is an immigration route for non-European Economic Area (EEA) migrants who wish to work in the UK. These migrants must be sponsored by an organisation or company that holds a Tier 2 licence. A licence is a permission given to an organisation to sponsor workers in its business. The organisation is known as a sponsor.
* GP Trainees are sponsored by HEE, but that sponsorship ends when they complete training and so must find employment with a new sponsoring organisation or must return to their home country
* The maximum time that a Tier 2 migrant may be in the UK under a Tier 2 visa is 6 years. After 5 years, the migrant may apply for settlement (indefinite leave to remain). A migrant Tier 2 Dr who has also trained in the UK will have already been in the UK under Tier 2 for a number of years and so the period of sponsorship may be limited before indefinite leave to remain may be granted
* A sponsoring licence is valid for 4 years – but it can be renewed. During this period a sponsor can sponsor a number of migrant workers, so is good for immediate vacancies and succession planning

**What is NHS England North Midlands doing to help?**

NHS England North Midlands (covering Shropshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) wants to help GPs who trained on our patch to stay on our patch and also, if possible, to attract new GPs to our area

* We are encouraging as many practices as possible to become sponsoring organisations and are offering administrative and financial support
* We are putting together a database of all Tier 2 trainee GPs (ST1, 2 & 3), so that we can assist GPs to find employment when they qualify and also keep them up to date with what’s going on in the meantime
* NHS England is currently reimbursing costs relating to tier 2 visa sponsorship and employment for fully qualified GPs
  + Relocation costs (from outside the UK) for the sponsored GP and immediate family up to £5000
  + Tier 2 visa application costs for the sponsored GP and their family
  + Application costs for a Tier 2 Sponsorship Licence (practice cost reimbursement)
  + The first 2 years of the Immigration Skills Charge for any GP employed and sponsored on a tier 2 visa (practice cost reimbursement)
* The latest information regarding entering and staying in the UK can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/entering-staying-uk>
* If you have any queries about your visa as a trainee you should contact HEE as soon as possible. If you have specific questions relating to your visa you should contact the Home Office

**If you are a Tier 2 trainee and have not already contacted Claire please email Claire.gooder@nhs.net and provide your name, GMC number, CCT date and details of your final placements – you can then be added to the database**

Claire Gooder

01138254613

Claire.gooder@nhs.net