

Near-peer Linguistics Mentor (“Chatter Chum”)

The School of Primary Care is delighted to have you join us here in Yorkshire and the Humber. We recognise that the transition to UK living and working may be stressful, so we have set up a successful buddying scheme with non-medical Linguistics and Language university students. These students have been trained to support international medical graduates with the Yorkshire dialect and accent, and to help you to navigate British culture, idiom, slang, and humour through friendly, non-judgemental conversations.

English as spoken in Yorkshire is not always ‘standard’, and can be hard to understand, even for those born and bred in other parts of the UK. British understatement and politeness means it can be hard to interpret whether people are being sincere. There are many different dialects, even within Yorkshire, and our aim is to try and provide you with support in understanding these. Your buddy is there for you to ask any questions about UK language and culture. They are there to help you decipher the many weird and wonderful idioms that the English language possesses. There are no silly questions; they are here to help you learn both for your own personal growth and for improving your communication with colleagues and patients.

The near-peer mentoring programme is highly recommended by previous trainees and allows us to identify trainees who need additional linguistic support at an early stage, so that this support can be offered when it is most likely to be beneficial. For this reason, “chatter chums” are only allocated to New to NHS doctors in their first post.

Details of your allocated buddy have been sent to you in your initial welcome letter from the training support team. We need to share your email address with your buddy so the first session can be set up. **If you are not happy to share these details, please notify [gptrainingsupport](#) no later than 19th May 2024.** If we have not received a response from you by this date, your email address will be sent to your buddy.

Our experience has shown that the sooner you meet your “chatter chum”, the easier you will find your early days in the NHS and in the UK. Your Trust or GP practice should release you to attend a one hour near-peer linguistics session during the first two weeks of your post.

Your “chatter chum” will contact you to arrange the first meeting via Teams; please engage with this for your own learning, and feel free to ask about shopping, addressing people, customs, culture, strange food in the local shops, haircuts or anything else that has been puzzling you or which you need to help settle in. There are no silly questions - if we do not know the answer we will find someone who does!

Further meetings can be arranged by mutual agreement, and we will also provide a glossary of regional words that you may not be familiar with.

Once more, welcome to Yorkshire & the Humber and we wish you every success in your training journey and beyond.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the GP Training Support Team via this email: england.gptrainingsupport.yh@nhs.net