



North East & Yorkshire  
Palliative and End of Life Care Strategic Clinical Network

## North East and Yorkshire Palliative and End of Life Care *Lunch and Learn* webinar

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 12.30 - 1.25pm. Chair Dr Kathryn Hall, GP Medical Examiner - Community Expansion, Dr Graham Cooper, Regional Medical Examiner.

Hear and share good practice from across the region

Share any challenges and ideas relating to palliative and end of life care



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## House keeping

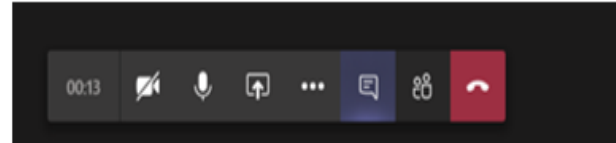


**Mute** – All attendees are muted on entry to avoid background noise but please ensure that you **mute your own phone too**.



**Questions** – Please send your questions to the presenters via the CHAT box by selecting '**Everyone**' on the bottom right-hand side of your screen.

**Questions may be posted by attendees throughout this section. To access chat**



**Introduce yourself** to everyone in the chat box - Where are you from, what is your role? (If you are replying to someone specifically in the chat box use **@theirname**)



# THE MEDICAL EXAMINER SYSTEM

Graham Cooper  
Regional Medical Examiner  
North East & Yorkshire

North East & Yorkshire Strategic Clinical Network

17.11.21

NHS England and NHS Improvement



## The Medical Examiner Office

- Established in Acute Trusts
  - 1 office may serve more than 1 Trust
- Lead Medical Examiner
- Lead Medical Examiners Officer
- Medical Examiners
  - Part time, consultants or GPs
  - Specific on-line and face-to-face training
  - 1 WTE per 3000 annual deaths
- Medical Examiners Officers
  - Support Medical Examiners
  - 3 WTE per 3000 annual deaths
- IT
  - National database

## What does the Medical Examiner do?

- Undertakes a proportionate review of relevant medical records
  - Ensures an accurate cause of death
  - Identifies need for referral to coroner
  - Identifies clinical governance concerns
    - If identified, notifies Trust through appropriate mechanism
- Interacts with the attending doctor
  - To agree the wording of the medical certificate of death
- Interacts with the relatives
  - To explain the cause of death in lay terms
  - To offer the opportunity to raise concerns

## Independence

Although hosted in NHS Trust premises and employed by them

- MEs have professional accountability for their work as an ME to the Regional Medical Examiner

# North East & Yorkshire

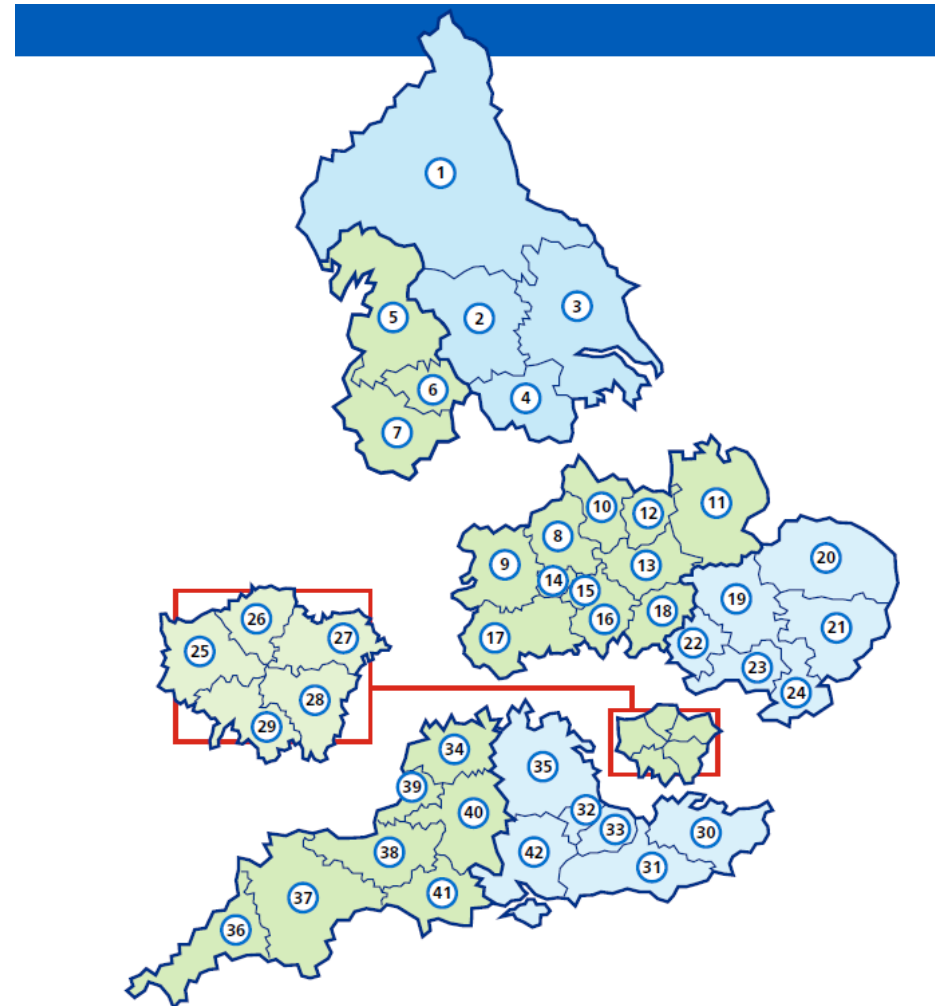
- Population 8m
- 22 Acute Trusts
- 80,000 deaths / annum
- 40,000 in hospital
- 10,000 taken by the coroner for further investigation

## For Secondary Care

- 10 WTE ME
- 30 WTE MEO

## For Primary & Secondary Care

- 20 WTE ME
- 60 WTE MEO



## Progress

- 21 ME Offices established in acute trusts in NE&Y  
[136 across England]
- 11 offices scrutinising around 100% of deaths
- 7 between 50% and 100%
- 3 around 30%
- Q2 71% of acute trust deaths scrutinised
- Anticipated to become statutory in 2022



# Community Roll Out

- Data Sharing
  - The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, having considered the advice from the Confidentiality Advisory Group, supported the application which means that confidential patient information can be shared with medical examiners by health and care organisations for the purpose of the medical examiner programme.
  - Each ME Office needs a data sharing agreement with each GP practice and Hospice
  - Information about community deaths not shared with the acute trust

# Community Roll Out

- Access to Records
  - Confusing!
- GPs as Medical Examiners
  - Employed by acute trust as ME
  - Typically 1 session per week
  - Employed as MEs, consultant payscale
  - Scrutinise all deaths
- Interaction with certifying GP
  - Brief; email or phone call
- Covid-19 legislation
  - Any doctor
  - 28 days
  - Cremation form 5

## Contact

[graham.cooper11@nhs.net](mailto:graham.cooper11@nhs.net)

07565 202118

Regional ME

[debbie.peacock2@nhs.net](mailto:debbie.peacock2@nhs.net)

**07724 426246**

Regional MEO

# Any questions?



# Future Sessions

## Survey in November/December

- Feedback on previous webinars
- Suggested topics for future webinars

## Dates for future webinars

- Wed 16th February 2021
- Thursday 10th March 2021
- Tuesday 5th April 2021



# Staying up to date

Future NHS End of life Care Practitioners Network

E mail: [Sherree.Fagge@nhs.net](mailto:Sherree.Fagge@nhs.net) to join

To be added to the SCN distribution list for future webinars,

E mail: [sharmaine.ahmed2@nhs.net](mailto:sharmaine.ahmed2@nhs.net)

To suggest topics for future lunch and learn webinars,

E mail: [marie.hancock2@nhs.net](mailto:marie.hancock2@nhs.net)



Slides will be circulated to all attendees and the recording will be made available  
on <http://www.yhscn.nhs.uk/httpwwwyhscnnhsukcommon-themesend-of-life-careSCNP.php>