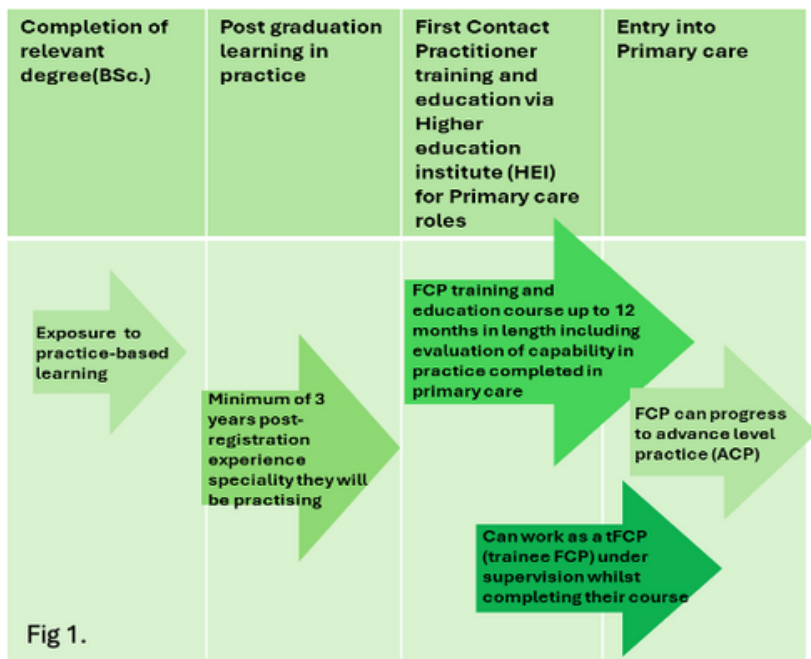


# SEL FIRST CONTACT PRACTITIONER (FCP) BULLETIN

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: [Nadia.bashir@nhs.net](mailto:Nadia.bashir@nhs.net) or [sarah.friel@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.friel@nhs.net)

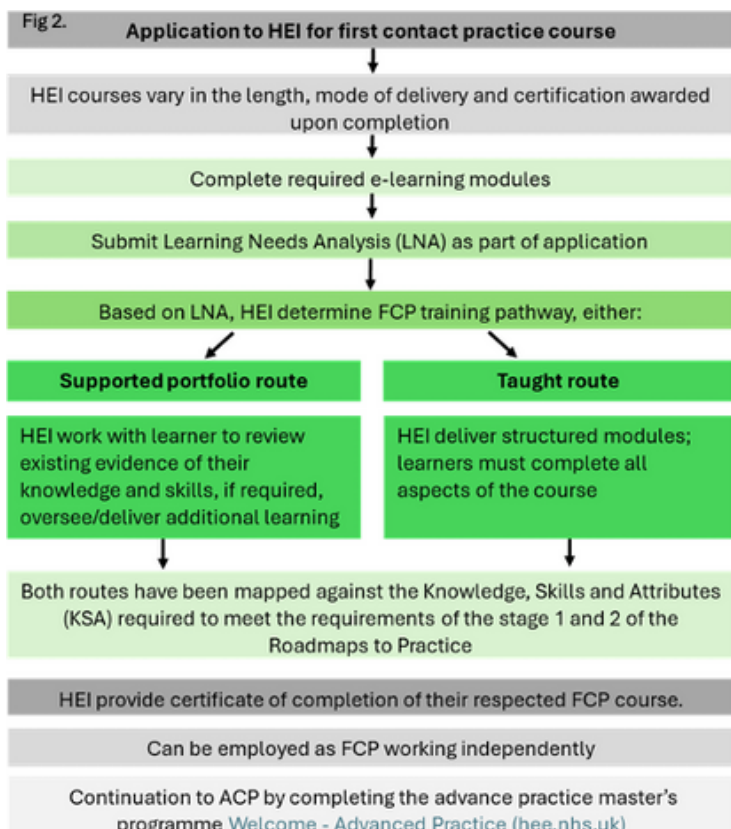
## How do you become a first contact practitioner?

The following allied health professionals (AHPs) can become First Contact Practitioners (FCPs) in primary care: musculoskeletal clinicians, paramedics, podiatrists, dietitians, and occupational therapists. Figure 1 outlines the pathway from undergraduate education to FCP roles. Completing this training equips AHPs with the competencies and skills needed to work in primary care and deal with undifferentiated presentations (within their scope of practice for their speciality) at the first point of contact. It also supports their ongoing professional development. Additionally, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), requires employers to demonstrate robust systems for recruiting properly trained staff.



## What is 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.



### 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 and 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

## How to apply for the Higher education institutes funded courses

Currently there are 8 HEI's providing funded FCP training programmes across England regardless of the region they are working within. There are other HEIs providing FCP education and training, although NHS England does not fund places with these institutions. These courses differ in length, delivery methods, and the certifications awarded upon completion.

**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
<b>HSU (Health sciences University, previously AECC)</b> <a href="#">PGCert First Contact Practice</a>   <a href="#">Health Sciences University</a>	All FCP	Jan 25 May 25 Sept 25	12 months	80 Credits PG Cert	Blended: online and in person
<b>Bradford</b> <a href="#">First Contact Practitioner (Musculoskeletal) PG Cert - University of Bradford</a>	MSK only	Oct 25	12 months	80 Credits PG Cert	Online
<b>Coventry</b> <a href="#">First Contact Practitioner (Musculoskeletal or Paramedic)</a>   <a href="#">Coventry University</a>	MSK, Paramedic	Jan 25 May 25 Sept 25	12 months	80 Credits PG Cert	Blended: online and in person
<b>Cumbria</b> <a href="#">PgC Paramedic First Contact Practitioner: Practice Development - University of Cumbria</a> <a href="#">PgC Physiotherapy Musculoskeletal First Contact Practitioner: Practice Development - University of Cumbria</a>	Paramedic only	Jan 25 Apr 25 Sept 25	12 months	80 Credits PG Cert	Online
<b>Hertfordshire</b> <a href="#">Search</a>   <a href="#">Courses</a>   <a href="#">Uni of Herts</a>	MSK, OT, Dietician, Paramedic	Mar 25	12 months	45 Credits	Online
<b>Essex</b> <a href="#">First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice</a>   <a href="#">University of Essex</a>	MSK only	Oct 25	12 months	80 Credits PG Cert	Online
<b>Teesside</b> <a href="#">First Contact Practitioner (Paramedic) UCPPD course</a>   <a href="#">Teesside University</a>	Paramedic only	Jan 25	12 months	40 Credits	Online
<b>UCLAN</b> <a href="#">AHP First Contact Practice in Primary Care, Short Course - UCLan</a>	All FCP	Feb 25	12 months	40 Credits	Online

## Who needs to supervise trainee FCPs?

The HEI will assign each trainee FCP with an Educational Supervisor who supports them throughout the training program and completes most of the required assessments, including the final sign-off. Clinical Supervisors in primary care oversee work-based assessments for the trainee FCP. Each HEI provides specific criteria for who can act as a Clinical Supervisor, but it is recommended that GPs complete a trainers' course and non-GPs complete the multiprofessional supervisors' course.

## Essential resources

- [First Contact Practice FAQs](#) | [NHS England](#) | [Workforce, training and education](#)
- [SELWDH FCP resources](#)

## Support and contacts

- Please contact us for any FCP related queries or questions: [Nadia.bashir@nhs.net](mailto:Nadia.bashir@nhs.net) or [sarah.friel@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.friel@nhs.net)