

Trainee Allocation Level 3 Training

A. Structure and Organisation

Level 3 trainees comprise of 3 distinct groups.

- NTN grid trainees
- Trainees undertaking Special Interest (SPIN) modules in specialties
- Trainees specializing in General Paediatrics

1. NTN Grid trainees

The placements of these trainees are dictated by the structure of the NTN Grid programme and fixed.

- **Paediatrics Sub-Specialties (except Neonatal Medicine and Community Child Health)** – These placements are all at Birmingham Children’s Hospital except for a 12-month placement at UHNM for Respiratory Grid trainees.
- **Neonatal Medicine** – These trainees spend 18-24 months (including 6 months of secondment to Neonatal Transport Service) at Birmingham Women’s Hospital and 12-18 months at 1 or 2 of the other 4 NICUs (Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Royal Wolverhampton Hospital, UHCW, and UHNM). The latter placements are accorded by rotation as well as trainee’s needs and preferences.
- **Community Child Health** – These trainees are placed at a range of LEPs in approved rotations. Each Grid Programme comprises of 24 months at the main LEP and 12 months at a companion LEP. These Programs are constructed to provide a full range of experiences necessary to meet the requirements of the CCH Curriculum, and are in close geographic proximity. Trainees are appointed to specific programs by the CCH CSAC depending on trainees’ preferences and their performance at the NTN Grid selections.

2. Trainees undertaking SPIN modules

The typical structure for these trainees consists of 12 months in the subspecialty at the tertiary centre (typically at BCH but also at UHNM and BHH for Respiratory Paediatrics), and further 12 months at LEPs which have substantial subspecialty workload and consultants with relevant expertise. For some specialties, these placements are pre-approved; for others, local knowledge and the recommendations of the regional Sub-specialty lead are used. The remaining 12 months of level 3 training takes place in LEPs providing unselected general paediatrics with some neonatal exposure.

3. Trainees specialising in General Paediatrics

Structure: These trainees spend 18-24 months in General Paediatric departments, 6-12 months in Subspecialty Paediatrics, and further 6 months in a purely neonatal post or at a LEP with LNU/NICU to ensure recent exposure to neonatal skills.

Allocation: There is no specific allocation policy for these trainees, and placements are mostly dictated by trainee’s choice of a LEP/geographic sector.

Flexible placement policy is essential at level 3 training given the high number of trainees with parental responsibilities, high proportion of LTFT trainees as well as changing career aspirations of trainees. Such flexibility is also crucial to ensure adequate tier 2 support for the Trusts as there are huge problems in staffing this role in paediatrics across the UK.

Choices for trainees

Level 3 trainees have an opportunity to indicate their 3 LEP preferences every year. Whilst the TPD attempts to match these preferences according to trainees' needs, some flexibility is required as the availability of training placements is variable.

The placements would be for 12 months from September 2018 in line with the HEE policy and will be announced at least 12 weeks in advance of the Changeover date. Hence, late changes and changes of second placements are not possible except in truly exceptional circumstances.