

# AfPP Education Prospectus 2026 - 2027

*Supporting the practitioner  
behind the practice*



# Welcome from AfPP

At AfPP, we believe that high-quality education is fundamental to safe, effective, and compassionate perioperative care. As an organisation representing perioperative practitioners across the UK, AfPP brings together clinical expertise, national guidance, and frontline experience to develop education that reflects real practice. This high-quality learning supports confident practitioners, strong teams, and better outcomes for patients.

AfPP education is developed and delivered for perioperative professionals by perioperative professionals. Our programmes focus on practical skills, safe systems of work, and current national guidance so that learning can be applied immediately in operating departments.

We support:

- **Students and new starters** building core perioperative competence and confidence
- **Registered practitioners** maintaining and extending clinical skills and professional knowledge
- **Theatre leaders and educators** strengthening team performance, safety culture, and governance

This approach helps departments translate guidance into safe, consistent practice in the operating department.

Our aim is to provide education that is practical, evidence-based, and relevant to the realities of working in theatres today, supporting individuals, teams, and organisations to deliver safe perioperative care.

**Together, we can strengthen patient safety, professional confidence, and the future of our professions.**



**Jennifer Maher**  
*AfPP Education Lead*

## Why choose AfPP Education

AfPP education is designed to support safe perioperative care through practical learning.

- Every AfPP course, workshop, or event is mapped to CPD learning hours
- Supports HCPC / NMC revalidation
- Aligned with national guidance
- Developed by specialists in their field
- Clear outcomes and certificates provided for professional portfolios
- Helps practitioners evidence growth, reflection, and ongoing competence



## Education Priorities 2026 - 2027

AfPP is exposed to emerging perioperative challenges through our national initiatives, member feedback, audit activity, and engagement with perioperative professionals across the UK. These insights have helped shape AfPP 2026-2027 education, ensuring programmes reflect current clinical risks, workforce pressures, and the realities of practice.

Priority themes include:

- Implementing NatSSIPs 2 consistently
- Infection prevention in theatres
- Safe staffing and supervision
- Civility, psychological safety, and team behaviours
- Updates in perioperative clinical practice and emerging guidance

These priorities guide our programme development and ensure education reflects current perioperative risks and service needs.

# Learning Pathways

AfPP's Learning Pathways provide a framework of development opportunities designed to meet the needs of individuals across the perioperative professions. Each pathway supports professional practice, whether for those beginning their careers, practitioners consolidating or extending their expertise, or leaders and managers seeking to strengthen team capability and culture.

The pathways are organised to ensure clarity, progression, and relevance. They help learners identify education aligned with their role, responsibilities, and future development needs, while supporting departments to plan training that reflects local service priorities.

Each pathway includes education delivered through conferences, workshops, online learning, and bespoke AfPP Academy training. Programmes include defined learning outcomes, CPD mapping, and practical tools to support implementation in operating departments.

Together, these pathways form a suite of education that supports safe practice, professional growth, and the continued advancement of perioperative care.

## Clinical Practice

*To strengthen the core knowledge and practical skills required to deliver safe and effective perioperative care.*

Education within this pathway includes

- Infection prevention and control for theatres
- Scrub practice essentials
- Anaesthetic practice essentials
- Recovery practice fundamentals

## Safety and Quality

*To strengthen safety culture and improve patient outcomes through consistent application of national guidance and governance processes.*

Education within this pathway includes

- NatSSIPs 2: Introduction.
- NatSSIPs 2: The 8 Sequential Steps in Practice
- Human factors education (short sessions to full-day programmes)
- Communication skills for safer practice
- Risk management, quality assurance, and audit
- Quality improvement fundamentals



## Leadership and Culture

*To develop leaders who inspire safe, inclusive and high-performing teams.*

Education within this pathway includes

- Introduction to leadership
- Inclusivity and Team Collaboration
- Teamworking and Communication
- Professionalism, accountability and reliability
- Communication and civility, including the AfPP Behaviours Charter
- Psychological safety and speaking up

## Professional Growth

*To support personal development, professional confidence, and lifelong learning.*

Education within this pathway includes

- Understanding the role of the trainer
- Mentoring and supporting teams
- Coaching skills
- Giving and receiving feedback effectively
- The value and impact of CPD

## Wellbeing and Resilience

*To promote personal wellbeing and sustainable careers in high-pressure theatre environments.*

Education within this pathway includes

- Emotional intelligence
- Reflection, resilience and personal growth
- Supporting wellbeing in high-pressure perioperative environments
- Stress awareness and self-management
- Burnout awareness and prevention
- Work-life balance and boundary setting

# How Learning Pathways Support Departments

Learning Pathways help departments to:

- Plan structured CPD programmes
- Address local incident themes and service priorities
- Support staff development and retention
- Evidence training for governance and inspection requirements

Education can be delivered as stand-alone sessions or combined into tailored programmes through AfPP Academy.



## New for 2026-2027 – Perioperative Leadership in Practice

*Developing confident leaders to coordinate safe, effective perioperative care*

Perioperative Leadership in Practice is AfPP's flagship 2-day programme designed to support practitioners stepping into, or developing within, first-line leadership roles in the operating department. It is suitable for those new to coordinating theatre activity, as well as those already undertaking shift leadership who wish to strengthen their knowledge, confidence, and consistency in the role.

The programme focuses on the practical application of leadership in perioperative settings, including shift coordination, prioritisation, situational awareness, and structured communication. It supports participants to understand their responsibilities in maintaining safety, patient flow, and standards of care, and to recognise and escalate risk appropriately. It also introduces core people leadership skills, including coaching, feedback, and managing challenging situations at an early stage, alongside key concepts such as safe staffing, psychological safety, and improvement in practice.

Delivered as an in-person, interactive programme, learning is supported through short taught sessions, case-based discussion, and peer learning. Participants are provided with practical tools and frameworks that can be applied directly in the operating department to support consistent leadership behaviours, effective team coordination, and the delivery of safe, high-quality perioperative care.

# AfPP Academy – Bespoke Organisational Training

AfPP Academy provides tailored education for operating departments based on local service priorities. Training can address incident themes, workforce development needs, culture improvement, or governance requirements.

Education can be delivered on-site or online as half-day or full-day sessions and includes practical sessions and facilitated discussion to support real change in practice.



### TESTIMONIAL

*The AfPP provided the team at Blackpool Teaching Hospital a course on leadership and human factors and patient safety, these sessions ran over 2 days on a weekend. Max and Olly delivered these subjects with a captivating and engaging delivery and the whole team provided positive feedback and thoroughly enjoyed. I would wholeheartedly recommend this session to anyone looking to develop their teams and would certainly look to book this again.*

**Blackpool Teaching Hospital**

## Conferences and Events

AfPP conferences bring together perioperative experts, educators, and practitioners to explore clinical challenges and share practical solutions. They provide structured CPD focused on current perioperative priorities. With a focus on practical application, professional growth, and the advancement of safe perioperative practice, these events support individuals and teams at every stage of their career journey.

Events in 2026-2027 include Regional Conferences, the Annual National Conference, and specialist symposiums.

### Regional Conferences

AfPP's six Regional Conferences in 2026 deliver high-quality, evidence-based education closer to home. Led by expert speakers, they focus on current challenges, innovation, and best practice, offering practical insights to enhance patient safety, quality care, and team performance.

Dates & Locations:

Birmingham – 25 April 2026 • Cambridge – 16 May 2026 • Manchester – 20 June 2026  
Bristol – 18 July 2026 • London – 12 September 2026 • Edinburgh – 14 November 2026



## Annual National Conference 2026

The AfPP Annual National Conference returns on 7–8 August 2026 at Wyboston Lakes Resort, delivering our most comprehensive event. This flagship conference offers a rich programme of learning, collaboration, and professional networking, alongside a dedicated evening event to connect and celebrate with colleagues from across the UK.

Conference at a Glance:

- 13.5 CPD Hours
- 5 Learning Streams
- 30+ Expert Speakers
- 40+ Industry Exhibitors
- Practical Workshops
- Networking Opportunities
- Professional Advice and Support
- Evening Social Event



### TESTIMONIAL

*I attended The AfPP Annual Conference in Warwick, where I had the chance to network with professionals and fellow students in perioperative care. The diverse lectures and workshops offered valuable insights into best practices, emerging technologies, and patient care. Engaging with expert speakers and participating in hands-on sessions deepened my knowledge and inspired me to apply these insights in my studies and practice. I especially valued the discussions on patient safety, theatre efficiency, human factors, and civility. I thoroughly enjoyed the event and hope to attend again next year.*

**Jessica Hone, Trainee ODP**



## Symposiums

AfPP symposiums provide focused, specialist learning on key areas of perioperative practice. These events bring together subject matter experts and practitioners to explore specific topics in depth, supporting enhanced knowledge, critical thinking, and application to practice.

The AfPP Human Factors Symposium, *Human Factors in Practice: Strengthening Culture, Performance, and Safety*, will take place on Thursday 8 October 2026 in Sheffield. This event focuses on the application of human factors across perioperative challenges, including psychological safety, team behaviours, workforce pressures, role boundaries, and emerging technologies such as robotic surgery. Delivered by experienced speakers from clinical practice, education, and patient safety, the programme uses real-world examples to explore how human factors influence communication, decision-making, and team performance, supporting practitioners to recognise risk and apply practical strategies in the operating department.





## Online Learning

AfPP online learning supports flexible CPD through live webinars, recorded sessions, and on-demand modules. They can be accessed remotely, supporting individuals and organisations with workforce development while providing CPD tracking and certification.



### TESTIMONIAL

*With AfPP you have a wealth of knowledge and experience through the online networks you can access and the education that AfPP provide is excellent.*

**Nick, Operating Department Practitioner**

## CPD and Revalidation Support

All AfPP education provides recognised CPD hours and certificates of attendance.

## Theatre Access Course for Company Representatives

AfPP's Theatre Access Course prepares company representatives and other visitors to work safely within operating departments. The course covers infection prevention requirements, theatre attire, professional conduct, confidentiality, and expected behaviour within restricted areas.

This training helps departments ensure visitors understand theatre protocols, support safe introduction of equipment and devices, and work appropriately with clinical teams.

This course is widely recognised across the UK and supports organisations in ensuring company representatives understand the professional standards and safety expectations of the operating department.

For more information, contact:

Call **01423 881 300**

or email **admin@afpp.org.uk**





@SaferSurgeryUK

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