



Incoming changes to England region committees

There have been some significant changes to the format and roles of the BGS regional committees over the past 12 months, with further planned changes as we go into 2026. This article outlines some of the changes, and explains what our BGS England region committees will look like going forward.

Historically, BGS England was divided into 13 regions. Over the past year, we have changed the regional structure, revising the regions to six larger areas. The regional boundaries are now largely in line with the training Deaneries, which offers synergies in terms of where medical trainee geriatricians rotate, and therefore makes more sense when organising regional educational meetings.

Our six England region committees will continue to provide a supportive and collaborative local environment for fellow healthcare professionals, while influencing decisions taken at a regional level and helping to strengthen multidisciplinary communities.

Why have we made these changes?

Following feedback and evidence from last year, we believe that merging the BGS regions was the right decision and we would like to thank the committee members for getting on board with this change so quickly.

In addition to the regional boundaries, we recognise the pressures that staff are under. It became evident that filling each of our 13 committees with ten individual members, with expectations of what they would be able to deliver, was unrealistic.

The hope is that these changes to the regional committee structure will ensure that regional committee working is achievable, more fulfilling and ultimately more successful!

What will the committees look like?

We plan to reduce the size of our regional committees, with just two key representatives per region. Current Co-Chairs who are still within their term will take on these roles – and we are happy to extend terms if needed. Duties have been significantly reduced and are detailed below.

Some regions have been working hard to bring larger committees together, and they will be able to take these forward as the committees evolve. Additional members will be invited to bring their skills and enthusiasm to the planning group for future regional meetings. This is also an opportunity to think about succession planning and identify whether any individuals from these committees may wish to take over as co-chair after the current co-chair's terms ends.

New England Region Co-Chair roles

www.bgs.org.uk/regions

Roles and responsibilities

- BGS region meeting planning support**
Estimated time: 6–10 hours
Support BGS with an online region meeting every other year (along with a small planning committee, which you will be tasked to bring together for this purpose). This is similar to how our SIG committees work, giving at least 6 months lead time, preferably 8 – 12 months. This will also involve reviewing abstract submissions in advance of the event.
- Attendance at the region meeting**
Estimated time: 1 day
You would be required to support the meeting on the day. This will include chairing the day, moderating sessions, along with planning committee and judging poster presentations.

Other duties will be minimal throughout the year, to include:

- Attendance at England Council Meetings**
Estimated time: 2.5 hours every 3–4 months
- Providing a brief update for BGS All Regions quarterly e-bulletin**
Estimated time: Up to 1 hour every 3 months
- Act as region network link for BGS**
(to including promotion, recruiting new members/succession planning, generating event attendees and championing BGS)
Estimated time: 1–2 hours every month

If you would be interested in considering a role as a Co-Chair for one of our six regions, please email h.blackman@bgs.org.uk

A renewed focus

The main focus of the regional committees will be planning and hosting a regional meeting every other year (three of six regions will host a meeting each year). The dates of the meetings are to be confirmed and will align with the wider BGS education event programme.

All six region meetings, along with webinars, will be guided by the rolling CPD programme in order for delegates to achieve an accessible and systematic way to gain CPD across a wide topic range when attending each of the events across a two year period.

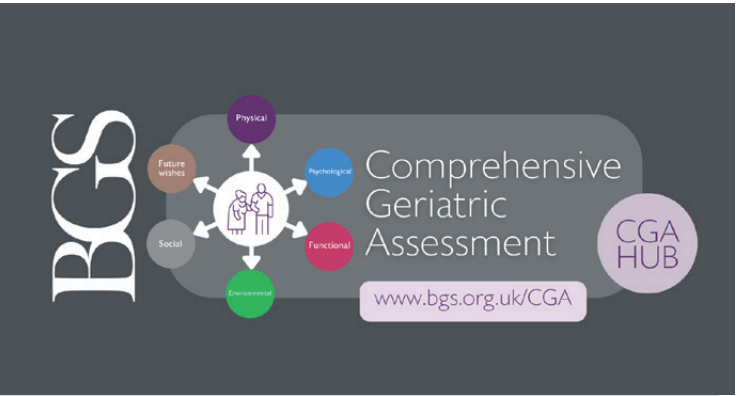
Digital first

In another notable change, it has been agreed that it is sustaining hybrid (i.e. in-person plus online) meetings is unrealistic, so regional meetings going forward will be held online only.

We have had had to postpone planned meetings for 2025 but aim to have dates booked for all six regions in 2026 and 2027. For those regions have events in 2027, we will be able to accommodate a one-hour webinar in 2026 in addition to your full online 2027 meeting. We anticipate that meetings will take place as follows (dates to be confirmed):

- 2026:** Midlands, North East and Yorkshire, North West
- 2027:** South West, East of England, London and South East

Over the summer Richard Biram, England Council Chair and Helen Blackman, BGS Conferences and Region Development Manager, will be meeting with each of the six region co-chairs to discuss the next steps moving forward.



The BGS has launched the latest in its suite of topic hubs on the BGS website. Our new Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) Hub aims to provide clear, concise, evidence-based information to help BGS members and their colleagues to understand the benefits of CGA and contribute to this process in a variety of settings.

CGA is a cornerstone of good quality care for older people. Equipping the entire multidisciplinary team, across a wide range of clinical settings, with the tools and skills to embed CGA into their everyday care of older patients with frailty and multimorbidity is crucial to ensuring they receive personalised care, when and where they need it.

Our new CGA Hub aims to provide clear, concise, evidence-based information to help BGS members and their colleagues to understand the benefits of CGA and contribute to this process in a variety of settings. Providing an overview of the rationale, evidence and application of CGA, the CGA Hub breaks down this process into its key domains – physical, psychological, functional, social, environmental, and future wishes.

Within each domain, it provides further detail on how the assessment process can be applied across settings and by members of the multidisciplinary team. It also provides advice on how to embed CGA into your own service. The new hub is free to access for members and non-members. We plan to expand the resource with more practical examples, templates and advice

We hope this will become an invaluable resource for those who are unfamiliar with CGA, as well as those who want to improve or upscale the CGA they offer. We encourage you to share it widely with colleagues in all professions and specialties, to help them better understand the value and basics of CGA.

Access the full hub at www.bgs.org.uk/CGA