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# ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE

Led by:



In partnership with and supported by:



# Programme Overview

*Aspiring to Excellence* is an award programme designed to encourage and recognise service improvement in axial SpA (AS) care. It will provide a focal point from which professionals can explore and test approaches to reduce the delay to diagnosis and improve axial SpA (AS) care and patient experience. The knowledge and experience generated will be shared in real-time across the UK and internationally to help stimulate cross-the-board improvements in care.

*Aspiring to Excellence* is a strategic partnership between NASS, BRITSpA and sponsoring companies AbbVie, Novartis and UCB, and is an essential part of our **Every Patient, Every Time** campaign, launched at the House of Commons in December 2018.



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*I was 18 when I started with symptoms... multiple trips to the doctors and hospital with no diagnosis. I was actually advised by my GP that I wouldn't be taken seriously until I was 40. I was finally diagnosed a few weeks before my 40th! 22 years of begging for help.*


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# Do you want to raise standards in axial SpA (AS) care?

Apply for the *Aspiring to Excellence* awards programme, open to rheumatology services across the UK



Services that are aspiring to improve their care will gain support from within a multi-site learning environment



The programme will identify and disseminate learning material so that others can improve their care

# What will you gain?

- Be part of a learning environment to explore problems in the delivery of high quality axial SpA (AS) care, identifying and testing solutions through **4 network meetings** each year for **3 years**
- Access to a team of clinical, improvement and learning experts who will support you in achieving local improvement goals
- Peer support from other participating rheumatology services
- Opportunities to share results through webinars, conferences and publication and to help shape future health policy on axial SpA (AS)
- Additional funding on a competitive basis to support local audit
- Promote your service locally as a potential model of excellence
- All costs for travel, accommodation and meals will be covered

# How will the axial SpA (AS) community benefit?

- The programme will test out potential ways to reduce the delay to diagnosis, achieve cost efficiencies and improve care; this will be relevant to all rheumatology services
- All rheumatology services will have access to learning and materials, including webinars, learning reports and conference presentations
- The learning will be presented to parliamentarians and policy makers in order to give axial SpA (AS) a higher profile and policy priority



“ AS is a distressing condition, often misunderstood and suffered in silence. The nights are especially dark and lonely for me even with my lovely, supportive wife in the next room. I cannot wait for morning to come. Every sufferer has their own particular degree of disability and anxiety. I am happier knowing that if I am having a particularly bad spell expert advice is a phone call away. ”

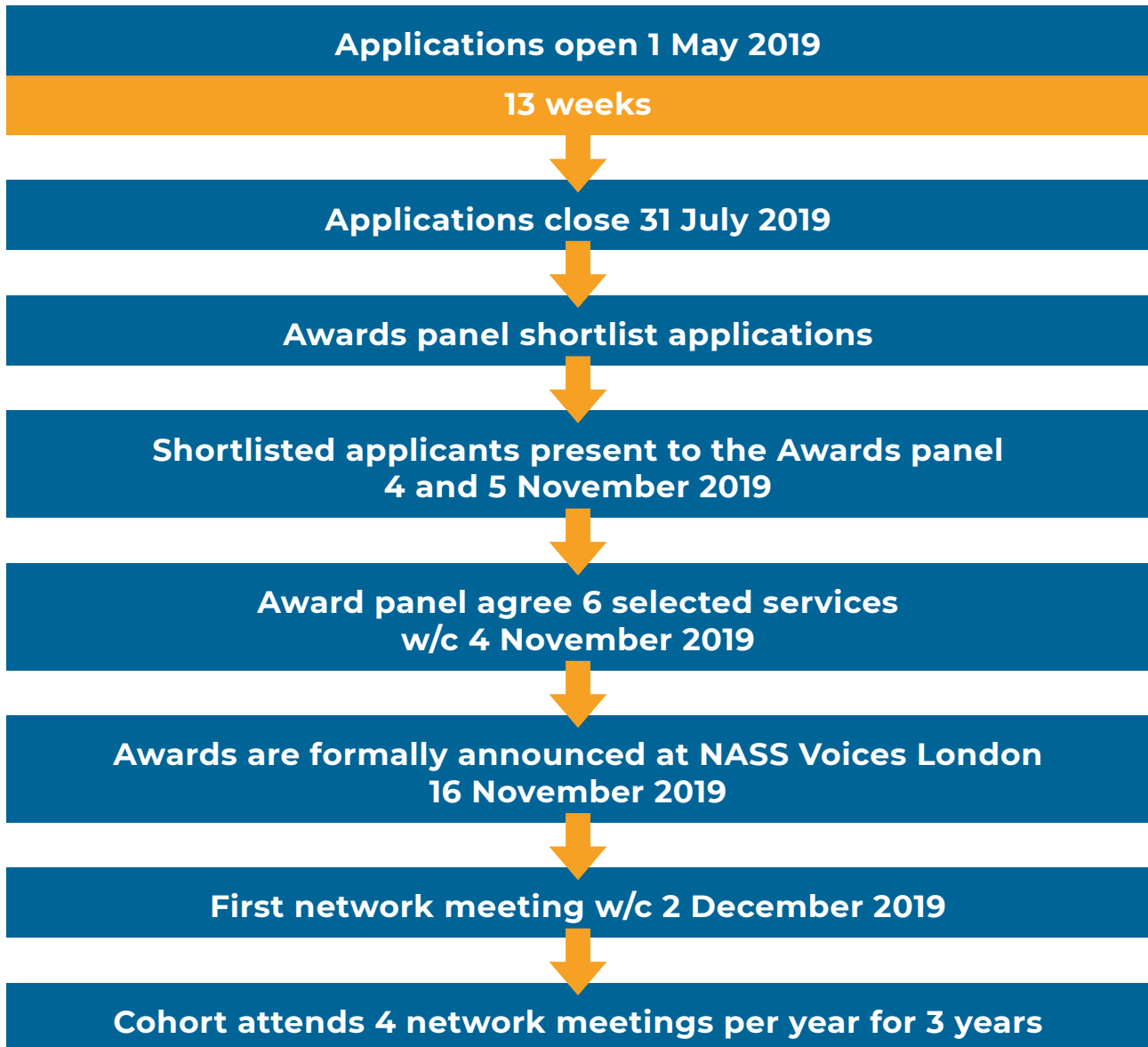
## How will patients benefit?

There should be demonstrable benefits to patients treated at award holding services as well as a positive impact on axial SpA (AS) patients more generally through the dissemination and spread work of the programme

Patients treated at *Aspiring to Excellence* services should experience:

- A shorter time to diagnosis from symptom onset
- A shorter time to effective treatment
- Improved satisfaction with axial SpA (AS) services

# How do you apply?





*The words 'non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis' were spoken by my specialist rheumatologist in 2017, and it was at that point the previous 5 years of chronic pain made sense. I am now under an incredible team who are helping me manage my condition.*

Apply now at [www.nass.co.uk/aspiring-to-excellence](http://www.nass.co.uk/aspiring-to-excellence)

## Any Questions?

Email Anna McGilvray, Programme Manager, Aspiring to Excellence  
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