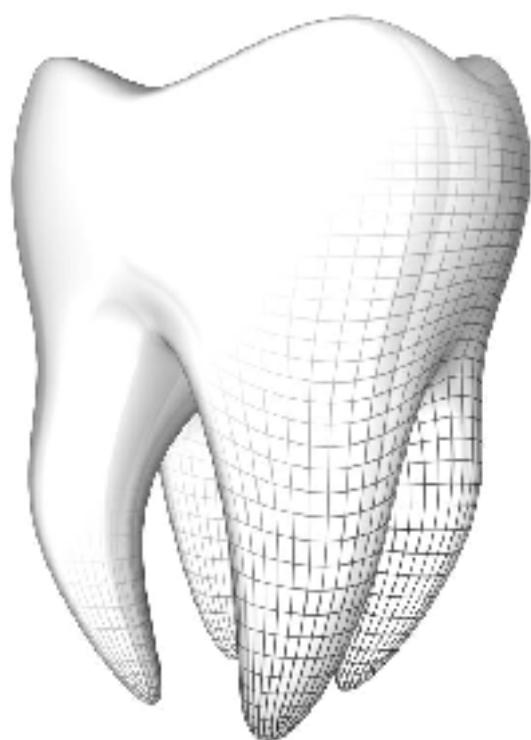


Workforce Training & Education (WT&E)  
Thames Valley & Wessex  
Dental Office



# Return to Dental Therapy Scheme Information Guide

January 2024



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## Introduction & Background

NHS England's mission is to improve health outcomes for the people of England by developing people for health and healthcare.

The Postgraduate Dental Department offer Foundation Training Programmes, Core Training Programmes, Speciality Training Programmes (Orthodontics, Oral Surgery, Special Care Dentistry, Dental Public Health) and a wide range of continuing professional development courses for the dental team.

We also run training programmes for Dental Care Professionals including a Dental Therapist Foundation Training Scheme.

Our priority is to ensure that our trainees and trainers are competent and confident in their roles, and can provide high quality, safe patient care through high quality training programmes and learning environments, to develop our future dental workforce.

## Dental Therapist Return to Work Scheme

The Return to Dental Therapy Reskill Scheme is primarily aimed at qualified dental therapists who have not practiced for an extended period and are solely working as a hygienist.

The scheme will commence either 02 January 2025 or 09 January 2025 (TO BE CONFIRMED) and will assist dental therapists who may have become deskilled, to increase their confidence and ability to work as a dental therapist in practice.

At the end of November 2022, there were exciting new developments in NHS dentistry that allow dental therapists to carry out direct access in general dental practice within the NHS. Ensure you are ready to participate in this exciting time by increasing your skills with a Return to Dental Therapy course.

We propose to achieve this through:

### Period of Scheme

This course will run two days a week for a period of 6 months commencing Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and finishing 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

### Educational Development & Training

The Scheme involves an educational study day programme of minimum 10 study days including at least 6 Skills Lab Days covering basic restorative techniques, cavity design, materials, rubber dam, local anaesthetic, pulpotomy and stainless steel crowns.

### Consolidation of Skills

At least 40 days in Dental Practice with an experienced dentist educational supervisor. You will have the opportunity to carry out the full scope of practice of a dental therapist and will have the support of a training programme lead who is a dental therapist.

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## Ongoing Support

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The training programme programme lead will be available to offer advice regarding moving on to employment as a dental therapist in NHS general practice.

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## Salary

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You will be paid on an NHS Agenda for Change, band 6 salary, pro rata 2 days a week.

## Study Programme January 2025 – June 2024 (Provisional)

### Training Programme Lead – Kira Stearns

Date	Time	Course Title	Venue
Day 1	10am – 5.00 pm	Welcome to the Scheme – Kira Stearns Introduction to Restorative Clinical Skills (Hands on)	Portsmouth Dental Academy Haptics Unit
Day 2	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Restorative Clinical Skills (Hands on)	Skills Lab WPH or MKUH
Day 3	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Local Anaesthetics Update Clinical Photography	TBC
Day 4	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Management of the Grossly Carious Primary Tooth (Hands on)	Skills Lab WPH or MKUH
Day 5	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Posterior Composites (Hands on)	Skills Lab WPH or MKUH
Day 6	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Anterior Composites (Hands on)	Skills Lab WPH or MKUH
Day 7	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Practical Radiography	TBC
(Optional)	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	General Dental Council Fitness to Practice Hearing (Optional)	London
Day 8	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Direct Access - TBC	TBC
(Optional)	TBC	Risk Management with Dental Protection (Optional)	Online
Day 9	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Direct Composite Veneers Hands on Day	Skills Lab WPH or MKUH
Day 10	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Am: Case Based Presentations Day 7 Pm: Adult & Paeds, Direct Access	TBC

**Applicants must commit to all study days + 2 days a week in Practice**

## E-Portfolio for Trainees and Educational Supervisors

As part of your training programme, you will have an internet based Electronic Portfolio (e-Portfolio).

Progress in all areas of professional life is increasingly dependent on records of the extent and nature of previous experience. This is difficult and inaccurate to do in retrospect; thus the habit of regular record keeping is best developed at the outset, so that no opportunity is missed for the registration of higher professional recognition.

The e-Portfolio provides a record your clinical experience and allows you to record your reflections on Education Programme days, tutorials and your clinical experiences on a regular basis.

It contains sections for reflections, logs of tutorials, Education Programme days and clinical activity, along with records of workplace-based assessments and feedback, together with an area for highlighting learning needs and recording when and how these are addressed.



Each section has its own workflow, usually with input passing from Return-to-Work Therapist to Educational Supervisor, with indicators showing areas requiring input.

Satisfactory Completion of the Return to Therapy Scheme is dependent upon your ability to maintain and keep your e-Portfolio updated.

You will need to discuss your e-Portfolio with your ES on a weekly basis, and your TPD will also review your e-Portfolio on a regular basis. It is essential that the e-Portfolio is kept up to date, all assessments are recorded and that course work and other items are uploaded as required.

## Educational Development Study Day Locations

### Portsmouth Dental Academy (UPDA):

University of Portsmouth Dental Academy  
William Beatty Building  
Hampshire Terrace  
Portsmouth  
PO1 2QG

[University of Portsmouth Dental Academy](#)

### Milton Keynes (MKUH):

The Academic Centre,  
Milton Keynes University Hospital  
Standing Way  
Eaglestone,  
Milton Keynes  
MK6 5LD

The following link gives directions and information on parking: <https://www.mkuh.nhs.uk/>  
Please park in car park D. When you leave the car park the main hospital faces you, please turn left and look for the building which looks like it has building work. The skills lab is upstairs in this building.

### Wexham Park (WPH):

John Lister Postgraduate Centre  
Wexham Park Hospital  
Wexham Street  
Slough  
SL2 4HL

<https://www.fhft.nhs.uk/your-hospitals/wexham-park/>

Please note that the pay & display machine will only accept £1.00 coins. Credit Cards accepted.  
It is £8.00 to park all day.

## Application Process & Schedule

### Application Criteria

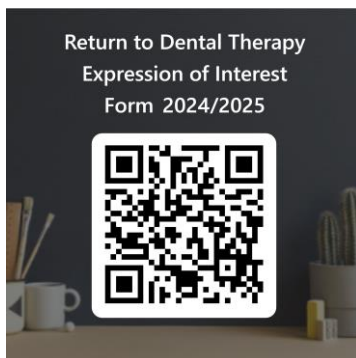
You are eligible to apply if you meet the following criteria:-

- Graduated in the UK as dual-qualified dental hygienist and therapist
- Have not worked as a dental therapist for a period of time resulting in deskilling and lack of confidence in restorative procedures
- Currently working as a dental hygienist

Application Timeline *ALL DATES ARE PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

Date	Process
	<i>Applications Open</i>
Thursday 31 October 2024	Applications Close
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Candidate Interviews 10:00 hrs onwards (MSTEAMS)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Confirmation of placements
(TBC) Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2025	Scheme Start Date

An Application form can be found by here: [Application form](#) or alternatively follow the link below or scan the QR Code :-



- You will be notified of acceptance onto the scheme via email by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and further information will be available after this date.



## Contact Details

### Dental Therapy Training Programme Lead

Miss Kira Stearns  
[kira.stearns1@nhs.net](mailto:kira.stearns1@nhs.net)

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### Dental Therapy Scheme Administrator

Mrs Sue O'Sullivan  
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### Address:

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HEE Thames Valley & Wessex

