

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



Dental Therapist Foundation Training Scheme 2026-27

Applications
OPEN
1 March
5pm

Information Guide
& Application Process



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Key Contacts: THE DENTAL TEAM

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Education Programme Officer, Dental Foundation Training & Dental Therapy Foundation Training	Sue O'Sullivan Sue.osullivan5@nhs.net 01865 932065

Introduction

The Dental Therapist Foundation Training Scheme (DTFT) supports newly qualified dental therapists as they transition into safe and effective practice within a general dental practice setting.

The scheme provides structured clinical support and an educational programme focused on developing professional skills, knowledge, and confidence. Trainees are expected to apply critical thinking and evidence-based practice throughout the training year.

This handbook sets out the structure and requirements of the Dental Therapist Foundation Training Scheme.

The Scheme covers the NHS England Thames Valley and Wessex region: Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight.

Applicants should read it carefully before completing the application form, which is available on the Thames Valley & Wessex website.

[Dental Therapist Foundation Training - Working across Thames Valley](#)

If you require further information please contact sue.osullivan5@nhs.net Education Programme Officer, Dental Foundation and Dental Foundation Therapy Training.

Outline of the Scheme

This section outlines the structure of the Scheme. Any queries should be directed to the Training Programme Lead or the Education Programme Officer.

Where will I work? – The Training Practice

Training practices are selected through a robust approval process to ensure they provide a supportive, high-quality learning environment. Each trainee is supported by an Educational Supervisor (Trainer) who is committed to training and well placed to guide and support development throughout the training year.

Trainers are experienced dentists or dental therapists, many of whom have current or previous experience as Dental Foundation Trainers.

As part of the Dental Therapist Foundation Training Scheme, trainers support trainees in day-to-day clinical practice, provide protected one-to-one teaching time, and offer guidance on the wider non-clinical aspects of working in general dental practice.

What days will I work?

Thursday is a fixed working day.

The remaining two working days are flexible and will be agreed between the trainee and the training practice.

When does the scheme start?

The scheme start date is 1 September 2026.

All applicants must have successfully graduated and must be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) by this date.

What is the salary?

This is an employed role, with remuneration set at **NHS Agenda for Change Band 6 (entry point)**. Employment will be on a formal contract with the training practice.

The salary is currently **£39,959 per annum (2026/2027)**, **£23,975 pro rata** for three days per week (**22.5 hours per week**).

How many days will I be employed?

The scheme is delivered over **three days per week** for a full calendar year, running from **1 September 2026 to 31 August 2027**. These dates are fixed.

The part-time structure supports work–life balance and professional development, allowing trainees to secure additional employment on the remaining two weekdays. This offers greater flexibility in career planning, broader clinical experience, and the opportunity to enhance overall income while benefiting from structured training and support.

Am I entitled to annual leave?

You are entitled to **16 days' annual leave**, plus **5 bank holidays**, over the full training year.

Any bank holidays that fall on your normal DTFT working day will be deducted from your annual leave entitlement. Annual leave must not be taken on scheduled study days.

What study days will I attend? – The Day Release Programme

The educational programme consists of a minimum of **14 study days** across the training year. Study days are normally held on a **Thursday** but may occasionally take place on a Wednesday or Friday.

Venue

Face-to-face study days take place at locations across the **Thames Valley & Wessex** region, including:

- Wexham Park Hospital, Slough
- Milton Keynes University Hospital, Milton Keynes
- NHS England Office, Reading

Study days run from **09:00 to 17:00**, allowing time for travel.

Format

Study days include a mix of:

- Presentations
- Problem-solving workshops
- Practical 'hands-on' sessions

The programme also includes opportunities for **self-directed learning**.

Study day topics

Topics vary throughout the year and typically include:

- Team working and communication
 - Oral mucosal disease
 - Dental radiography in practice
 - Clinical photography
 - Complaints handling
 - Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
 - Diagnosis and treatment planning in periodontics
 - Interview techniques and CV writing
 - Financial planning and career development
 - Management of the grossly carious primary tooth (hands-on)
 - Management of the traumatised anterior tooth (hands-on)
 - Posture (hands-on)
 - Direct access
-

Who pays for the study days?

Study days are funded by NHS England Thames Valley & Wessex. Eligible travel expenses may be claimed in line with the Travel & Expenses Policy.

What if I fail to attend a study day session?

Attendance at all day release programme sessions is mandatory for the award of the completion certificate. Attendance is monitored, and verifiable CPD certificates are issued.

Leave for holidays, interviews, or other commitments must be arranged outside the scheduled educational programme. In the event of illness on a study day, trainees must notify the Training Programme Lead by 09:00.

Failure to attend a study day will prevent certification unless an approved equivalent course covering the missed topic is completed, as agreed with the Training Programme Lead. This must be completed in the trainee's own time and at their own expense. Evidence of completion must be provided in the form of a verifiable CPD certificate.

Is there an opportunity to engage with the wider dental team?

Yes. Some study days are delivered jointly with Dental Foundation Training Schemes, supporting collaborative learning and professional discussion.

Community-based project

Dental Therapist Foundation Trainees will complete a **community engagement project** aimed at improving oral health outcomes and quality of life for individuals who experience barriers to accessing dental care.

This aligns with the Chief Dental Officer's current priorities for oral healthcare delivery in England and the NHS.

How will I know how I am progressing?

Regular feedback will be provided throughout the training year and recorded in the following ways:

1. e-Portfolio

An **e-learning portfolio** is maintained throughout the training year. It begins with an agreed record of discussion between the Educational Supervisor (Trainer) and the Dental Therapist, setting out expectations and objectives.

Progress is reviewed regularly with both the Educational Supervisor and the Training Programme Lead. Clinical experience, protected learning time, and reflective practice are documented throughout the year.

2. Educational assessments

Trainees' complete self-assessments and are assessed by their Educational Supervisor using nationally recognised workplace-based assessment tools.

These assessments provide structured feedback to support reflection and development. A **patient satisfaction survey** and **multi-source feedback questionnaire** are also completed mid-way through the year.

Together, these processes support reflective practice, professional development, and achievement of the required competencies for successful completion of the programme.

3. Clinical audits

Trainees are required to complete **two clinical audits** - one in radiography and one in record keeping - to support quality improvement, clinical governance, and reflective practice.

4. Online learning

The programme includes **core online learning packages**, completed throughout the year, including Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Young Children and Information Governance.

5. Case presentation

An essential component of the scheme is the presentation of a **patient case** managed during the training year. This demonstrates reflective practice and clinical self-assessment, and evidences the development of knowledge, skills, and professional judgement.

The case is assessed by a panel, who evaluate clinical reasoning, underpinning knowledge, and reflective ability.

6. Review of competence progression

Formal reviews take place at **6–8 weeks, 6 months, and 10 months** with the trainee, Educational Supervisor, and Training Programme Lead.

These reviews identify progress, support needs, and any areas requiring targeted development. Where necessary, a tailored action plan is agreed and implemented.

7. Completion

At the end of the programme, subject to successful completion and appropriate portfolio evidence, the Postgraduate Dental Dean will issue a **certificate of completion** of Dental Therapist Foundation Training.

How to Apply

How do I apply?

Applications Open	01 March 2026 at 5pm
Applications Close	Applications will close once all posts have been filled
Local Scheme Webinar	30 April 2026
An application (MS Form) is available here or from our website: This should be fully completed and submitted. Any issues completing the form please email: Sue.osullivan5@nhs.net or call 01865 932065 (normal working hours apply).	

Please note that applications will be time-stamped. Applicants are therefore advised to submit their completed application as early as possible.

Applications will progress to the next stage provided applicants attend the Thames Valley & Wessex webinar and do not withdraw their application.

Eligible applicants will be offered a post based on the following criteria:

- 1: Order of application receipt (Time stamp)
- 2: Attendance at the Thames Valley & Wessex webinar

All other applicants will be placed on a reserve list and may be offered a post should vacancies become available.

Practice preferencing

Successful candidates will be invited to **rank training practices in order of preference**. Offers will be made based on date of application submitted with training practices allocated accordingly.

Confirming acceptance after practice preferencing

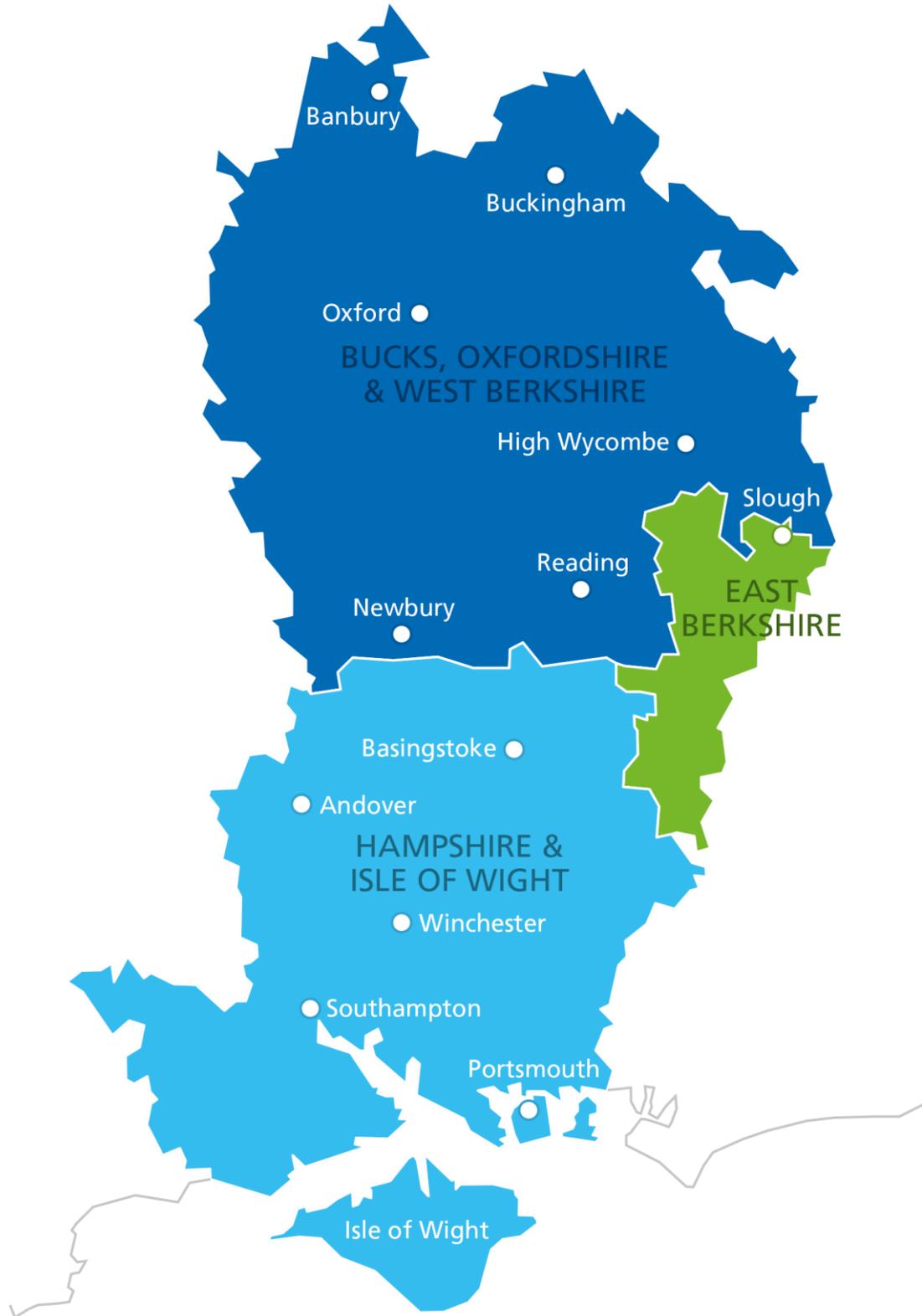
You must formally **accept the offer by email** within the specified timeframe.

By accepting an offer, you are bound by the legal and ethical frameworks that apply to all recruitment procedures. You should not accept a position unless you are certain that you are able and willing to take up the appointment.

Before the start of the scheme, you will be required to sign a **Letter of Intent** (a pre-contractual agreement). This provides assurance and clarity for both parties. If an offer is not accepted within the agreed timeframe, the post will be offered to the next highest-ranked applicant on the reserve list.

Both the **Educational Supervisor (Trainer)** and the **Dental Therapist** will also sign a training agreement with the **Postgraduate Dental Dean**.

Thames Valley & Wessex Region



Dental Therapist Foundation Trainee: Person Specification

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Employment Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK National or visa that allows employment • Disclosure and Barring Service clearance in full by 1st September 2026 • Able to take up post on 1st September 2026 	
Qualifications/ Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible for registration with the GDC as a Dental Therapist by 1st September 2026 • BSc/Diploma in Dental Therapy by 1st September 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of first registration on or after 1st September 2026
Clinical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent clinical practice • Basic life support skills • Good manual dexterity • Appropriate level of clinical knowledge • Clear, logical thinking • Approach to tasks with an analytical/scientific style 	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of communication and language skills • High level of written and spoken English 	
Management & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to prioritise clinical need • Ability to organise own work and environment • Ability and willing to work in multi-professional teams • Decisiveness/accountability for actions • Complies with GDC standards and meets deadlines 	

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Professionalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good time keeping • Ability to maintain professional manner when under pressure • Shows awareness of own limitations • Use of a non-judgemental approach to patients and colleagues • Shows knowledge of evidence-informed practice • Probity – displays honesty, integrity, awareness of ethical dilemmas and respect of confidentiality • Disclosure and Barring Service clearance in full by 1st September 2026 	
Personal Characteristics	<p>Must be able to demonstrate experience or capability of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility • Excellent interpersonal skills • Ability to reflect on feedback • Able to attend all study days and complete the educational programme • Able to undertake assessment components (DEPS, CBD's) • Disclosure and Barring Service clearance in full by 1st September 2026 • Availability to start 1st September 2026 	
Physical Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets professional and health requirements 	

Scan the QR code below to Apply

The Application form will not be available until 5:00 pm Sunday 1st March 2026

Application Thames Valley &
Wessex DTFT Scheme 2026-27

