

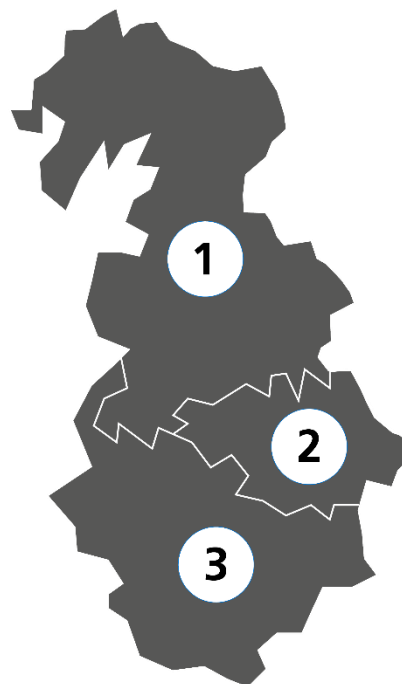
**NHS England North West**

**Dental Therapist Foundation Training (DTFT) Programme**

**Information for Educational Supervisors and Training Practices**

**North west**

1. Lancashire and South Cumbria
2. Greater Manchester
3. Cheshire and Merseyside



## **1. About the DTFT Programme**

### **Programme Overview**

The NHS England North West Dental Therapist Foundation Training (DTFT) Programme supports newly qualified Dental Therapists (graduation within the last two years) as they transition from undergraduate training into NHS primary dental care.

Eligible Dental Therapists may apply to join the programme. A place is only confirmed once the therapist is appointed to a recognised Training Practice.

Key features include:

- Funded by NHS England North West
- Educational allowance provided to the Educational Supervisor (ES)
- DTFT employed by the practice for up to 3 days per week
- Monthly study days (usually the first Wednesday of each month)
- Fortnightly tutorials delivered by the ES during clinical hours

### **What a DTFT Can Do**

Dental Therapists are highly skilled clinicians who can provide a wide range of routine dental care within their scope of practice, including:

- History taking and clinical examination
- Periodontal assessments, indices and charting
- Diagnosis and treatment planning within competence
- Prescribing, taking and interpreting radiographs
- Preventive advice and oral health education
- Non-surgical periodontal therapy
- Topical treatments and fissure sealants
- Local anaesthesia (infiltration and ID block)
- Direct restorations on primary and permanent teeth
- Pre-formed crowns on primary teeth
- Temporary dressings and recementing crowns
- Pulpotomies on deciduous teeth
- Extraction of deciduous teeth under LA

- Impressions

DTFTs are encouraged to undertake Direct Access within their scope, under close supervision from the ES.

“Dental Therapists are registered dental professionals who carry out certain items of dental treatment direct to patients or under the prescription from a dentist.” — GDC Scope of Practice

### **Programme Finance**

- Educational Allowance: £8,775 for the 12-month programme
  - Therapist Salary: £136 per day (or £68 per half day, up to 4 hours)
  - Employer On-Costs: £33.53 per day (NI + pension)
  - UDA Income: All UDAs generated by the DTFT remain with the ES
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## **2. Educational Supervisor (ES) Requirements**

### **Eligibility**

An ES must:

- Be an experienced dentist with high clinical and ethical standards
- Have worked in NHS primary care for at least four years as a performer
- Deliver a minimum of 1,000 UDAs per year
- Hold a performer number
- Provide a dedicated surgery and suitably trained dental nurse for up to 3 days per week

Experienced Dental Therapists may support the programme, but the overseeing ES must be a dentist.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Be present in the practice when the DTFT is working
- Provide a broad range of clinical experience (including at least 70% restorative)
- Deliver fortnightly protected learning time/tutorial (minimum 1 hour)
- Support completion of the e-portfolio, assessments and feedback
- Ensure the DTFT has appropriate facilities, equipment and materials

## **Role of the Educational Supervisor**

The ES plays a central role in teaching, mentoring and supporting the DTFT. Effective supervisors demonstrate:

- A willingness to teach
- Strong communication skills
- High self-awareness
- Sensitivity to others
- Enthusiasm and commitment

The ES should guide the DTFT to develop their own clinical judgement, skills and professional behaviours.

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## **3. ES Obligations**

Educational Supervisors are expected to:

- Employ the DTFT under the agreed contract and submit a signed copy to NHS England North West
- Seek approval for any contract variations
- Complete and return the Educational Agreement
- Provide appropriate clinical cover whenever the DTFT is present
- Offer administrative support and an experienced dental nurse
- Conduct an initial interview and create a development plan
- Provide guidance on clinical and administrative matters
- Deliver fortnightly tutorials (minimum 1 hour, during clinical hours)
- Ensure attendance at all compulsory study days
- Provide adequate facilities, equipment and materials
- Ensure compliance with professional standards (e.g., CQC, HTM 01-05, employment law)
- Offer a wide range of NHS clinical experience
- Monitor progress and complete e-portfolio assessments
- Attend ES development sessions when required

- Meet with the Training Programme Director as needed
  - Provide access to reference materials (internet, journals, books)
  - Confirm final certification of training
  - Notify NHS England North West of any significant changes affecting the ES, DTFT or practice
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#### **4. DTFT Obligations**

Dental Foundation Therapists are expected to:

- Work as an employee under the agreed contract
- Participate in practice induction and initial PDP interview
- Work under the direction of the ES and seek help when needed
- Raise concerns promptly in the interest of patient care
- Attend fortnightly tutorials (minimum 1 hour, during clinical hours)
- Attend all compulsory study days
- Engage fully with training opportunities and maintain a full workload
- Keep the e-portfolio up to date
- Complete all assessment activities
- Contribute to the practice team and follow practice protocols
- Maintain professional indemnity and adhere to GDC standards
- Cooperate with NHS England North West in the event of disputes

The ES–DTFT relationship is that of Provider/Performer, with the ES responsible for ensuring the DTFT’s competence and suitability.

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#### **5. Tips and Guidance from Current ESs**

- Be approachable and patient — new DTFTs need time to learn
- Provide a two-week induction for observation, systems training and orientation
- Start with two patients per session

- Ensure the DTFT has an experienced nurse — they are essential for support and communication
  - Allow time for the DTFT to write their own notes
  - Provide a range of materials and allow autonomy
  - Keep the ES diary light to allow supervision
  - Invite the DTFT to observe learning opportunities
  - Provide close supervision for early extractions
  - Plan a generously spaced diary initially, increasing complexity gradually
  - Encourage dentists to refer straightforward restorative cases early in the programme
  - Build confidence steadily to reduce stress and support development
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## **6. Contacts**

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