

Postgraduate Dental Education Department
Director: Mr. A. M. Baxter BDS MMedSci FDSRCPS

Executive Summary: Visit to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust on the 20 May 2010

BACKGROUND

- The GMC/PMETB does not include dentistry in their remit.
- The Deanery is responsible for ensuring the quality management of the training process for dental training grades and has restarted the visiting programme to hospital Trusts.
- The Deanery is also inspecting the training in the units with regard to the recently announced new Dental Foundation Programme curriculum that will be gradually implemented over the next few years.

FINDINGS

- This Unit has single handed Oral Surgery and Orthodontic consultants who provide the supervision, training and sign-off the training portfolios. The consultants and middle grade staff appear to provide as much supervision and support as they can within their current remit. The visiting OMFS consultant from Cambridge also provides some support.
- There is a developing link between King's Lynn and Norwich Hospitals NHS Trusts and a link with the Head and Neck Oncology service at Cambridge.
- There is a wealth of hands-on oral surgery experience available which is off set by the lack of more advanced oral and maxillofacial cases dealt with by the department.
- There are "bleep free" teaching session with a programmed timetable of topics related to dental foundation curriculum and this runs as well as the staffing levels permit.
- The educational supervisor undertakes appraisals and assessments.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

1. The Trust should continue to actively engage with neighbouring Trusts to broaden the training that is available to the SHOs. Head and neck oncology, orthognathic and cleft lip and palate cases are examples of this but more advanced oral and facial surgery is also included in this casemix.
2. The educational supervisor should continue to be proactive encouraging the use of portfolios and reflective learning by the trainees.
3. There is a lack of an accommodation base for the SHOs in the small department. Even the use of a notice board would give a focus for local and regional training meetings and national education events.