NHS Health Education England

Professional Support & Well-being for Doctors and Dentists in Training Guidance for trainees, trainers, and employers within Health Education England, East of England

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Document Status

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Executive Summary

The updated version of the original document (published 2014) continues to outline the key principles and processes of the Professional Support & Well-being Service (PSW) and how it provides specialist support for trainee doctors and dentists working across the East of England. Trainee doctors and dentists can experience difficulty in a personal or health capacity which affects their ability to train, and the purpose of this guidance is intended to provide information to the employer and Health Education England, East of England (HEE EoE) on how an individual can be supported through a difficult time. The main changes are to include all trainee doctors that are within HEE EoE remit, therefore includes Foundation, GP, speciality and dental trainees. There has been a separation of the policy around the Professional Support & Well-being Service and the <u>Trainee in Difficulty Policy</u>.

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1 Acknowledgments

- 1.1 The following resources have been used in preparing this policy:
 - <u>A Reference Guide for Postgraduate Speciality Training in the UK</u> (Gold Guide, Seventh Edition, 2018) – Section 7
 - Supporting Trainees: A guide for Supervisors (The National Association of Clinical Tutors (NACT) UK, 2018)
 - <u>The UK Foundation Programme Reference Guide</u>, May 2017
 - <u>General Medical Council (GMC) guidance</u> for potential and actual Fitness to Practices (FtP) cases and where revalidation might be affected
 - <u>National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS)</u> for more serious case consideration
 - Local Education Provider (LEP) policies
 - Policy and Protocol documents from several other HEE's in the UK, including Kent Surrey and Sussex, South West, Thames Valley, Yorkshire and Humber, East of England and Northern Ireland.

2 Guidance Statement

- 2.1 HEE EoE is committed to providing excellent education and training for doctors and dentists in its postgraduate training programmes. Despite training being rewarding, there are occasions where a trainee may need some extra support to help them through a difficult situation.
- 2.2 This policy is intended to provide a practical overview of the additional professional support available to all postgraduate and dental trainees who come under the remit of HEE EoE. It applies to the financial year 2018/19 onwards.
- 2.3 Its purpose is to ensure that the relevant issues are identified, understood and addressed so that the trainee may complete training successfully and continue to contribute to the work of the NHS.

3 Scope

- 3.1 This guidance applies to all doctors and dentists in training with HEE EoE. However, the appropriate policy of the relevant employer (for example, occupational health, disciplinary or grievance policy) would need to be followed as applicable to the individual trainee or trainer.
- 3.2 The policy recognises that trainees within HEE EoE may be employed by a number of different organisations and placements within a number of different host training organisations (LEPs). Due to the employment complexities of trainees and acknowledging the variance of individual policies between employers, the guidance highlights a common approach for trainees and trainers.

- 3.3 Trust employed doctors not on a training programme should follow their own Trust policies and procedures.
- 3.4 The Complex Case Advisory Group (CCAG) will provide a resource for discussing and analysing complex trainee cases based on facts of a PSW referral, or disclosure of information during a PSW review meeting, or information received from an external source, including but not limited to the Employer, Hospital Trust, General Medical Council (GMC), General Dental Council (GDC), NHS England (NHSE) and Royal Colleges and UK Foundation Programme (UKFPO).
- 3.5 The CCAG may deem it appropriate to escalate the case to the Responsible Officer (RO) where there are significant concerns regarding the trainee's licence to practice.

4 Aims and structure of the Professional Support & Well-being Service (PSW)

- 4.1 The PSW aims to provide expertise, a consistency of approach, additional support for trainees and trainers, and access to resources.
- 4.2 The PSW is led by one Deputy Dean and a Clinical Lead with responsibility for professional support and well-being, who work with the PSW's management, administrative staff and a team of clinical and non-clinical case managers. These are drawn from different specialty backgrounds and all take part in a programme of specific training and continuing development.
- 4.3 Lines of accountability for the PSW include:



5 Principles of the Professional Support & Well-being Service (PSW)

- 5.1 The following sets out the principles for professional support & Well-being:
 - Transparent and understood by all
 - Evidence based
 - Clear criteria for assessment and decisions
 - Consistent application of guidelines and process
 - A culture built around support
 - Patient safety is paramount
 - Responsible use of funding and resources
 - Focussed on areas for development

6 Confidentiality

- 6.1 Whilst the PSW provides access to confidential services, it forms part of the overall governance structures relating to postgraduate medical and dental training and as such reports to the Postgraduate Dean. It may be appropriate to escalate any concerns to the Responsible Officer (RO), GMC, GDC, NHS England (NHSE) or other appropriate governing body.
- 6.2 The PSW Confidentiality Statement is on all PSW referral documentation and correspondence:

The PSW Confidential Statement

Other than a brief summary sent to the referring doctor (following meeting), information divulged to the PSW will only be shared outside of the PSW where concerns raised are considered to be in breach of the professional, ethical guidelines of the GMC/GDC. This includes the need to ensure the safety of patients, self and the public and abide by the law. If the Professional Support & Well-being Service (PSW) believes that professional ethical principles or laws are being broken by the individual, the trainee will be advised of this and information will be shared with the Postgraduate Dean or nominated representative to determine appropriate action.

7 Referrals to the PSW

- 7.1 For all referrals, the PSW will request that a referral form is completed.
- 7.2 The completed forms will be sent to <u>PSW.eoe@hee.nhs.uk</u> to be triaged. The flowchart (see Appendix A) highlights the referral process.
- 7.3 For almost all referrals, <u>Referral Form F</u> (see also Appendix B) is to be completed. The referral will be given a level of 1 to 3 for administrative purposes in order to triage the referral appropriately
 - Level 1: low level concern
 - Level 2: intermediate level concern

- Level 3: high level concern
- 7.4 For trainees with level 1 and 2 concerns, advice on how to manage the trainee locally (without the need for the trainee to be seen in the PSW) may be given at this stage.
- 7.5 Self-referrals to the PSW are only accepted for examination failure of two or more attempts, or where there is pattern of consecutive failure of different examinations. To make a request for the PSW to support repeated exam failure, <u>Referral Form E</u> (see also Appendix C) is completed.
- 7.6 All other concerns need to be supported in the referral by, but not exclusively, the trainees Training Programme Director or Educational Supervisor.
- 7.7 Once the referral has been received by the PSW, the PSW team will aim to respond within 5 working days.

8 Identifying the issues: early diagnosis and prevention

8.1 There may be a number of different types of behaviour indicate a trainee needs help and support. The following list highlights this range:



9 Individual Case Management in the PSW

- 9.1 When a referral is accepted, the trainee will be assigned a case manager, and in the first instance, will be invited to take part in a phone conversation or a face-to-face meeting to discuss the concerns raised.
- 9.2 The duration of an initial review meeting can depend on the level of concern but typically will not last more than 1 hour.
- 9.3 During the meeting, an action plan will be agreed upon with the trainee. Written notes of each meeting will be shared with the trainee, who will be given an opportunity to comment on the accuracy and revise them if necessary. The record of meeting is confidential, and the action point section will only be shared after the trainee has consented. The trainee will have 5 working days to respond to any inaccuracies, thereafter will be considered a true record.
- 9.4 The contents of the meeting will not generally be shared by the PSW unless the trainee has good reasons to object. The actions and overall outcomes will be shared with the trainee's referrer and TPD, if they are not the referrer. The trainee should be informed in advance of the distribution list of any documentation that is shared.
- 9.5 The agreed action plan will include referrals to other agencies and may include specialist occupational health advice, psychological support, communication skills, screening for

neuro-diverse conditions, individual exam skills coaching, group exam support workshops and careers support.

- 9.6 At the end of the meeting, the Case Manager will inform the trainee that the action notes taken will be shared with the referrer. This will not include the summary of the document. These will be sent to the referrer within 14 working days of the meeting.
- 9.7 Further meetings will be scheduled to review progress within 3 months of their previous meeting, unless acknowledged there is no further input required.
- 9.8 All communication with the trainees and educators are saved and stored securely and are password protected.
- 9.9 Complex cases may be discussed with other members of the PSW in confidential meetings. Where there are extremely serious concerns (for example, if a referral to the GMC is being considered), the PSW may refer a trainee to the trainee's Responsible Officer (RO), the Postgraduate Dean. The trainee will be prospectively informed if this action is going to be taken.

10 Conduct of PSW Review Meetings

- 10.1 Concerns need to be documented and objectively evidenced and ideally shared with the trainee before the meeting.
- 10.2 Factors which should be considered include:
 - 10.2.1 Background Information
 - 10.2.2 Relevant Issues identified during selection
 - 10.2.3 Remedial training
 - 10.2.4 Exploring the issue(s) that resulted in the event, meeting or concern
 - 10.2.5 Mitigating circumstances
 - 10.2.6 Evidence of pre-existing concerns and:
 - Evidence these concerns have been recorded
 - Evidence the trainee is aware of these concerns
 - Evidence of attempts to address these concerns
 - Evidence of trainee's response to these concerns
 - Evidence of previous satisfactory performance (which has subsequently declined)

10.2.7 Exploring the issue(s) that resulted in the event, meeting or concern



11 PSW Support Services offered

- 11.1 The PSW Support Services are offered to trainees on a need basis and whilst there will be some idea surmised from the referral received, a referral will not be made to our support services until an initial Case Manager meeting has been completed. The only exceptions for this are, there is a need to put a support service in as a priority or it is through a self-referral. The support services that we offer include:
 - Neuro-diverse condition screening and strategic coaching
 - Exam support workshops and 1:1 sessions
 - 1:1 Communication skills for accent reduction, workplace observations, confidence building, conflict management, CSA practice and team working
 - Careers support and 1:1 sessions
 - Psychological support
 - Specialised Occupational Health
 - Emotional Intelligence testing
 - Mentoring scheme
 - International Medical Group workshops

12 The PSW and the ARCP process

- 12.1 When a decision is taken during an ARCP to refer a trainee to the PSW, the person who will making the referral should be clearly identified and should make the referral in a timely way.
- 12.2 ARCP panels will only be informed of the details of the action plans arising from PSW meetings; they will not be informed of the contents of the meetings.
- 12.3 Copies of all other PSW documentation will be kept in a confidential file and will remain separate from the ARCP process.

13 What the PSW is not responsible for

- 13.1 The PSW is not responsible or qualified to make any ARCP decisions, nor can the PSW prescribe on employment related matters including any disciplinary hearings and grievances.
- 13.2 The PSW takes no responsibility for an individual's actions or decisions, the PSW can only provide advice and guidance during the period of which the trainee is in training.

14 Professional Support & Well-being for Educators

14.1 The PSW recognised the need to provide additional resources to trainers to help them to work with trainees with additional needs. Where necessary, this might involve the trainer meeting with the Deputy Dean or Clinical Lead responsible for professional support & well-being or a referral for psychological support.

15 Quality Assurance

15.1 This will be provided by the Professional Support & Well-being Annual Reference Group, which will include:



16 Self referrals

16.1 At present, a trainee can only self refer to the PSW for repeated exam failure, completing Form E.

16.2 Exam Support

- 16.2.1 Form E [See Appendix C] should only be used where trainees have experienced exam failure after 2 or more attempts, or there is a pattern of consecutive exam failure, and require access to specialist support only available by the PSW.
- 16.2.2 When a trainee exceeds 5 failed attempts then it would be up to the college to allow for an exceptional test
- 16.2.3 A trainee will be offered a range of services to support them in passing their exam, this can include coaching, neurodiversity screening, 1:1 exam support and an invitation to exam support workshops
- 16.2.4 Where a trainee has agreed to be screened for neuro-diverse conditions (such as dyslexia), the trainee may be granted additional time for their exams and any other adjustments for their training. Therefore, we advise not to book onto an exam until the results have been received.
- 16.2.5 The trainee can be offered a number of refresher sessions if they do not pass after the support given. This will be agreed with the trainee on an individual basis.

16.2.6 If the trainee displays any other concerns to the PSW, then they would need to contact the trainee's Training Programme Director as the PSW would require a different referral form to be submitted [see Appendix B]

17 Failure to attend scheduled review meetings

- 17.1 The PSW ask trainees to ensure that they attend the meetings they have agreed to attend. However, there is an understanding that sometimes this is not always possible but would expect that the PSW is given as much notice as possible prior to the meeting.
- 17.2 Where a trainee does not attend without any notification, their TPD and referrer (if different) will be notified. The trainee will have one more opportunity to attend a meeting.

18 Withdrawing from PSW support

- 18.1 The PSW will conduct an annual review of the current caseload and will contact the trainees where communication has ceased over that year to enquire whether they still require PSW support.
- 18.2 Where the trainees have not responded within 5 working days, the case will be closed.
- 18.3 When the PSW close a case, a feedback form will be sent to the trainee to invite their views of the support they have received.

19 **PSW Meetings**

19.1 There are a number of meetings, the PSW are involved with:

Weekly Triage meeting	•Review and decide appropriate course of action for each referral
Foundation Advisory Group	 Monthy meetings held to review Foundation trainees who may require additional support, training time and programme management
General Practice and Lead Employer Advisory Group	 Monthly meetings held to review GP trainees with ill health, GMC concerns and long term absence
Complex Case Advisory Group (CCAG)	 Monthly meetings held to review trainees of particular concern
Serious Concerns Review Group (SCRG)	• Trainees with serious concerns are discussed and reviewed with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Attended by all members of the SLT and the Assessment, Revalidation & Performance Manager
PSW Operational Business Meeting	•Attended by Deputy Dean for PSW, Deputy Dean for TID, PSW Clinical Lead, PSW Manager and PSW Non-Clinical Case Managers. Ad-hoc meeting to discuss operational business
PSW Quarterly Strategic meeting	 Attended by all PSW case managers and administrative staff to agree and record strategic decisions
Annual Reference Group Meeting	•Similar to the PSW quarterly strategic meeting, with the inclusion of major stakeholders, Lay representatives and service users

20 Quality Oversight, Management and Improvement

20.1 To ensure the quality of the support provided to trainees, the following processes are in place:

Annual Report	Trainee Feedback Survey
Prepared in advance of annual meeting to report	Continuous feedback to learn from trainee's
on activity	experience
Stakeholder Feedback	Contracts and Commissioning
Provided by Heads of Schools at the Annual	Continue to review the services provided, adhere
Reference Group Meeting	to contracts and commission relevant services
Case Managers Case Manager appointment, selection, training, assessment and appraisal	Records Ensuring the use of structured referral forms, review meeting templates and telephone discussion notes
Policies Adhere to the PSW and TID policies	Values and Behaviours Ensure a consistent approach of access to services, inclusivity, working together for patients and to improve services

21 Legal Responsibilities

- 21.1 This guidance and related procedures are produced in accordance with the quality standard for deaneries as stipulated by the GMC, GDC, the Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans (COPMED) and the UK Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors (COPDEED) and within the context of the Gold Guide and Dental Gold Guide which stipulates the arrangements agreed by the four UK Health Departments for training programmes.
- 21.2 Under the Equality Act, the need for public bodies in England to undertake or publish an equality impact assessment of their policies, practices and decisions was removed in April 2011 when the 'single equality duty' was introduced. Public bodies must still give "due regard" to the need to avoid discrimination and promote equality of opportunity for all protected groups when making policy decisions and are required to publish information showing how they are complying with this duty.

22 Monitoring Compliance and effectiveness

22.1 The effectiveness of the policy will be reviewed on a regular basis and as such should be considered a live document.

23 Associated Documentation

- 23.1 The HEE EoE documentation includes:
 - HEE EoE Training in Difficulty Policy (2018)
 - Terms of Reference for <u>Annual Reference Group</u>, <u>Complex Case Advisory Group</u>, <u>Foundation Programme Advisory Group</u>, <u>GP and Lead Employer Advisory Group</u>



Appendix A Professional Support & Well-being Service (PSW) Referral Flowchart

Appendix B Referral Forms - Form F: Trainee Referral Framework

Can be found at <u>https://heeoe.hee.nhs.uk/PSU/PSU-documents</u>

	Traine	e Demo	graphics		
Trainee Name		GMC/	GDC/PH number		
		r tap here to enter text.			
Email address			anumber		
(Please do not use Trust emai	-				
Click or tap here to enter	text.		r tap here to enter text.		
Specialty			ng grade		
Click or tap here to enter	text.		r tap here to enter text.		
Current Placement			aining Scheme		
Click or tap here to enter			cable) Click or tap here to	o enter text.	
Educational Supervisor		ES em			
Click or tap here to enter	text.	Click o	r tap here to enter text.		
Clinical Supervisor nam	e	CS em	ail		
Click or tap here to enter		Click o	r tap here to enter text.		
Training Programme Dir	ector name	TPD e	mail		
Click or tap here to enter		-	r tap here to enter text.		
			IC undertakings?		
Vaa			_		
Yes			Νο		
	Do you have concer	ns about Fit	ness to Practice (FtP)?		
Yes		No			
Details of any current inve Click or tap here to enter	-				
(please put a		De of Col ad use the free t	1CEIN ext box below to provide furthe	r information)	
Clinical Performance, Knowledge and Skills	Click or tap here to enter text.		Health and Social Issues	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Professional Behaviour and Attitude	Click or tap here to enter text.		Communication, Team Working and Time Management	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Significant Life Event (i.e. divorce, relationship break up etc)	Click or tap here to enter text.		Environmental Issues (I.e. Inappropriate workload, poor culture, training environment, lack of support in the workplace)	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Engagement with Education and Training	Click or tap here to enter text.		Training Environment/ Support Issues	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Repeated Exam Failure (if this is the only concern please use the Form E)	Click or tap here to enter text.		Conduct, Capability, Probity	Click or tap here to enter text.	

Other: Click or tap here to enter text.						
Please provide the reasons for the concerns you have about this trainee and attach any relevant supporting documentation which you think will be useful (E.G. MSF,TAB etc). (If repeated exam failure is raised as a concern, please state the number of attempts)						
Click or tap here to ente	er text.					
Please use an 'x' to in (If you wish to provide further			tion whicl	n have already ta	aken p	lace.
Occupational Health R	eferral		Repeat	MSF/TAB		
Additional Supervision Coaching/Mentoring	n/		Trust i	nvestigation		
Access to Work			Other (enter te	please specify): ext.	Click	or tap here to
Referral Made By						
Name of individual co	mpleting this form: Cli	ick or tap here	to enter te	ext.		
Position	Click or tap here to enter text.		details	Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.		
			Email: Click or tap here to enter text.			
Signature of referrer			Signatur	e of trainee		
Risk Assessment: (Please use an 'x' to indicate the overall level of concern. This will only be used for administrative purposes in order to triage the referral appropriately)						
	Trainee	Patie	nt	Employer		Other
Low						
Intermediate	Intermediate					
High						

Appendix C Referral Forms - Form E: Self-referral Exam Support

Can be found at <u>https://heeoe.hee.nhs.uk/PSU/PSU-documents</u>

Can be found at <u>https://neeoe.nee.nhs.uk/PSU/PSU-documents</u>				
Trainee Demographics				
Trainee Name	GMC/GDC number			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Email address (Please do not use Trust email)	Mobile number			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Specialty	Training grade			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Current Placement	GP Training Scheme (if applicable)			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Educational Supervisor name	ES email			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Clinical Supervisor name	CS email			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Training Programme Director name	TPD email			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Referra	l information			
Referral date	Name of referrer			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Trust HR Contact	Head of School			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Exam information				
Exam failed (e.g. MRCA, AKT)	Part failed (e.g. Part A, B, 1 or 2)			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Number of attempts to date	Next sitting			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Action already taken	Further actions			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			

If the TPD/HoS is making this referral, please tick to confirm that the trainee has been **notified that** a referral to the PSW has been undertaken. \Box

If you are self-referring, please tick to confirm that your TPD/HoS has been notified that you are making this referral to the PSW. \Box

Signature: Date:

Please send this referral to PSW.eoe@hee.nhs.uk

Appendix D HEE PSW EoE Case Notes Template

Trainee Name:	
Trainee GMC number:	
Case Manager name:	
Date of meeting:	
Venue:	HEE Offices, Victoria House, Fulbourn
Follow Up	

DISCUSSION POINTS

Confidentiality discussed and agreed:

Other than a brief summary sent to the referring doctor, information divulged to the PSW will only be shared outside of the PSW where the concerns raised are considered to be in breach of the professional and ethical guidelines of the GMC/GDC. This includes the need to ensure the safety of patients, self and the public and abide by the law. If the Professional Support & Well-being Service (PSW) believes that professional ethical principles or laws are being broken by the individual, the trainee will be advised of this and information will be shared with the Postgraduate Dean or nominated representative to determine appropriate action.

Reason for referral			
History:			
Current perspective:			
Other factors: (e.g. health, social, finance, regulatory):			
Training progress			
Plans and strategies in place:			
Options discussed:			
Outcomes and actions	Trainee has confirmed their understanding that these action points will be shared with the referrer (and TPD, if not the referrer)	Yes □	No □
Trainee			
HEE EOE			
Other			