

# Health Education England

## Training Recovery Update

14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Colleagues,

***‘Our key objective has been to unify and integrate service and training recovery’***

This week, we published an [Interim Review](#) into the ambitious programme of work that HEE and our partners are collaborating on - the medical training recovery programme.

There is still so much to be done, but it has been important to pause and evaluate our progress, note our successes and consider the remaining challenges, as we take the next steps in managing the continued progression of England’s 55,000 doctors in training, and support the management of the significant NHS care backlog post-pandemic.

Our focus has been to minimise the initial impact of the pandemic on training and progression; to support trainees and educators with wellbeing and training recovery; and to lock-in the innovations we have developed to deliver long-term improvements in post graduate medical education.

There has been a tremendous joint effort by Postgraduate Deans and their teams with DMEs and educators in Trusts and GP practices across the country, supported by the General Medical Council (GMC), the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC), NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSEI), NHS Employers, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and others.

Initiatives such as Trust appointed Point of Care Ultrasound leads and Locally Employed doctors to free trainees to do endoscopies, and the provision of additional life support courses and simulation training programmes, are helping trainees to catch up on skills, while other initiatives like coaching and mentoring to help with the competence/confidence gap, and quiet rooms for supervision meetings are ensuring wellbeing and an individualised focus in recovery plans.

As a result of our collective efforts, extension rates are currently lower than we expected though the number of trainees with a training backlog has continued to grow. These trainees need our continued support.

We must integrate service and training recovery - as we head into winter and pressures continue to increase, embedding training recovery into service delivery remains crucial in order to supply the workforce needed to deliver COVID care and recovery, restore services and reduce waiting lists.

Our continued work on our [system-wide commitments](#) outlined in the interim report, will be essential to avoid further extension costs, and to support trainees who are managing curriculum gaps. By thinking innovatively about building training capacity, optimising learning opportunities and finding training placements that are tailored to individual learning needs, we can maximise training opportunities while supporting service recovery.

Best Wishes



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