

Report Addendum

Programme Provider: **NHS Education for Scotland - Edinburgh Dental Education Centre**

Education Quality Assurance (EQA) Lead: **Scott Wollaston**

Date of review: **February 2025**

Summary

Following inspection activity, the Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy programme at Edinburgh Dental Education Centre were given actions to address within a specified timeframe. Progress Monitoring has been undertaken by the EQA team to review what improvements have been made, to ensure that the actions outlined in the report have been appropriately addressed.

The GDC requested an update on progress in August 2024 and the provider responded with the relevant narrative and evidence, which was reviewed by GDC staff.

All requirements have now moved to Met. However, further comments were given by the provider within the progress monitoring return, around them addressing succession planning, as this was raised in the original report in 2020. It is positive to see that additional resource has been obtained to address this risk, however it is a concern that the additional roles are only on a fixed term basis until 2025. The GDC would encourage the provider to review this decision.

Action Number	Requirement	Progress
9	The school should consider formalising a process of dialogue and actions/processes of any changes that need to be implemented. Students and trainers are aware how to raise issues and make changes to curriculum but a more formalised process should be documented.	<p>Following the inspection, the provider stated <i>“Discussed upon induction to the programme. An end of year “Questback” programme surveys the trainees and trainers to ascertain if they feel there are any gaps in the training. This is reviewed by the Specialist Lead Tutor (Programme Lead) and the DCP Workstream Lead and any changes to the curriculum implemented.”</i></p> <p>This requirement was met within the original report, however the GDC are pleased to see the action that has been taken to formalise this process and address this action.</p>
10	The school should develop a contract with employers regarding disputes in practice.	<p>Following the inspection, the provider stated: <i>“Guidance on National Whistleblowing Standards included within Programme Handbook, with link for further guidance.”</i></p> <p>Again, this requirement was met within the original report, however this development is a positive action to see.</p>
11 & 12	The school must obtain feedback from patients in practice.	<p>Following the inspection, the provider stated: <i>“PAQ Implemented in 2020. Students issued with tablets to gather data from patients.”</i></p> <p>They also provided us with a copy of their feedback survey which is gathered and collated via MS Forms. The GDC are</p>

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		satisfied with this improvement and the content of the survey and this requirement has now moved from partly met to met.
17	The school must utilise patient feedback in assessments once it is gathered.	<p>Following the inspection, the provider stated: <i>“PAQ Implemented in 2020. Students issued with tablets to gather data from patents. This feedback is used as part of a reflective development session with the student”</i></p> <p>The GDC are pleased to see the progress against this action, and this requirement has now moved from partly met to met.</p>
20	The school should recruit an external person for oversight of whole programme.	<p>Following the inspection, the provider stated: <i>“Mr Richard Cure appointed as External Verifier in 2020. To date Mr Cure has reviewed the Programme Handbook in preparation for 2021-2022 Cohort.”</i></p> <p>This requirement was met within the original report, however this development is a positive action to see.</p>
Additional comments	Under Requirement 14 within the original report, the panel identified a risk within the programme of a single point of failure as the Programme Lead undertook most of the programme delivery and assessments.	<p>The original report identified <i>“As part of succession planning, the school has a former student who is now a current Orthodontic Therapist in a practice, who is engaged on a contractual basis and has supported face to face educative sessions and online student revision session. They have visited the students in their practices to provide support.”</i></p> <p>The provider commented in their Progress Monitoring return:</p> <p><i>“In line with GDC recommendation in 2020, we have appointed two GDC registered Orthodontic Therapists on fixed term basis until 2025 to fulfil the roles of Dental Tutors to support the Programme Lead in the delivery, assessment, and monitoring of students undertaking the programme. In addition, these posts contribute to and support succession planning within the Dental Directorate mitigate risk as outlined by GDC in 2020 OT programme inspection: “the possible single point of failure being the programme lead having sole oversight”. create a sustainable approach to upskill registrants and contribute to direct access for patient care, support workforce development of dental care professionals and support Scottish Government’s vision, creating a skilled and sustainable workforce.”</i></p> <p>This progress is a welcome positive addition to the programme and it appears to be effective in both supporting the students and the overall sustainability of the course. There are some concerns that the additional</p>

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		<p>resource has only been obtained on a fixed term basis and the GDC would encourage the provider to review their resources to retain the increased staffing levels, if possible.</p> <p>Update April 2025: The provider has confirmed that following a successful recruitment exercise, a new educator has been appointed on a permanent basis, to support the programme lead with the delivery and assessment of the programme. The provider is also commencing a further recruitment exercise to recruit a second permanent post to support the programme.</p>