# Yorkshire and the Humber Trainee Forum

## Terms of Reference

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| Version number & NHSE NE reference   |  Version 5 *(April 2025)*   |
|  Approved by   |  Andrew Brennan, Associate Dean NHSE YH TEF Directorate: Jon Cooper (PG Dean NHSE YH), Katie Cobb (Head of Function NHSE YH) |
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|  Communication plan   |  Deanery Management Team/Schools/DME/MEMs TF NHSE YH TF webpage  |
|  Date effective from   |  16.04.2025 |
|  Equality Impact Assessment   |  Neutral  |

## The Yorkshire and the Humber Trainee Forum

1. Introduction

#### Mission statement

##### The Yorkshire & the Humber Trainee Forum:

##### “The influential voice for trainees.”

##### Ensuring postgraduate doctors and dentists in training in the Yorkshire and the Humber region are fairly, equitably and transparently represented.

##### We aim to drive improvements in quality of education and training, well-being and support.

#####

* 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Trainee Forum (TF) is to

* Improve engagement of postgraduate doctors and dentists in training with the work of the Yorkshire and Humber Deanery, in NHS England’s Workforce Training and Education Directorate.
* It will facilitate an increasing contribution of postgraduate doctors and dentists in training towards day-to-day work, innovative projects and working groups.
* This in turn will help deliver our objectives of delivering excellent training, enhancing recruitment and retention and improving the postgraduate doctor and dentist in training experience.

Ultimately this will benefit our region by leading to the provision of the highest quality patient care.

Specifically, the Trainee Forum will:

* Increase postgraduate doctor and dentist in training engagement with the Yorkshire and Humber Deanery to enhance the quality of postgraduate medical and dental training and education.
* Represent postgraduate doctor and dentist in training views from medical and dental specialties in all localities in the YH region.
* Provide a mechanism for bidirectional communication and information dissemination between the Deanery and postgraduate doctors and dentists in training.
* Provide direct contact for postgraduate doctors and dentists in training with senior Deanery faculty and management, allowing postgraduate doctors and dentists in training to contribute to the development of relevant policies, strategies and processes.
* Provide a representative to attend Deanery management meetings to deliver a postgraduate doctor and dentist in training voice and opinion on strategy and policy-making.

1. Key Tasks
	1. To offer postgraduate doctor and dentist in training input into key strategic and management issues pertaining to NHSE YH’s educational governance and quality assurance functions.

* 1. To facilitate postgraduate doctor and dentist in training participation in NHSE YH’s educational governance and quality assurance functions such as Quality Visits to Trusts and ARCP Appeal Panels.
	2. Provide postgraduate doctor and dentist in training representation on appropriate NHSE YH committees and working groups thus ensuring postgraduate doctor and dentist contribution to the formation of future strategy.
	3. To collectively provide solutions to local issues, including in the quality and delivery of training in collaboration with the Postgraduate Dean (PGD) and the PGD’s representatives.
	4. To identify, develop, implement and share innovation and good practice in the NHSE YH region for the benefit of postgraduate doctors and dentists in training and the quality of their education and training.

* 1. To provide an additional forum for bidirectional communication between postgraduate doctors and dentists and NHSE YH.

1. Membership and representation

* 1. The Trainee Forum is made up of postgraduate doctor and dentist in training representatives from across Yorkshire and the Humber. Members can include postgraduate doctors and dentists in training of any specialty and stage of training in the Yorkshire and the Humber region. The complete Trainee Forum aspires to represent all schools at all levels at different localities of the region.
	2. Membership should be representative of the postgraduate doctors and dentists in training it serves and therefore the forum must ensure postgraduate doctors and dentists in training from all backgrounds and with different characteristics are included by ensuring appropriate advertisement, selection and appointment process giving fair opportunity to all.
	3. Trainee Forum members will be expected to seek and represent the views of their postgraduate doctor and dentist in training colleagues, as well as offer an individual perspective.
	4. Trainee Forum members will be representatives of all postgraduate doctors and dentists in training regardless of their specialty or grade.
	5. Trainee Forum members will feedback any relevant information to their assigned represented specialty or postgraduate doctor or dentist in training group.
	6. If required, the Trainee Forum may consult or invite other postgraduate doctors and dentists in training to contribute to the work of the Trainee Forum, particularly in areas where specialist knowledge or expertise are required. Examples include BMA reps, chief registrars, future leader fellows, school trainee reps.
	7. Any Trainee Forum voting processes will require a minimum of 50% of the Forum to participate to reach the threshold for a valid electoral process.
	8. In appropriate circumstances, including where a rapid or time-critical decision is required, the Chair/Vice-Chair will call upon the Trainee Executive Forum members to review and vote without involvement of the Trainee Wider Forum.
	9. When in post, support should be granted from the postgraduate doctor or dentist in training’s Educational Supervisor, Training Programme Director and School to allow appropriate leave arrangements for Trainee Forum work and attendance.
	10. Leave for Trainee Executive Forum members should be requested as study leave through the ACCENT Leave Manager portal. Wider Forum members are entitled to professional leave for Trainee Forum activities and this is managed locally by their employer. Leave requests must normally be submitted to the individual’s current Local Educational Provider with at least 6-8 weeks’ notice to ensure the rota will not be adversely affected. A process flow chart for the application and approval of leave is available [here.](https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/learner_support/policies/curriculum_delivery) Further details on leave entitlement for the Executive and Wider Forum can be found below (sections 4.15 to 4.20 inclusive, 5.5 and 5.6).
	11. Specific membership details, including application, tenure duration, and leave entitlement differs slightly for the Trainee Executive Forum and the Trainee Wider Forum. The details of which can be seen below and are summarised in the Trainee Forum Standard Operating Procedures
1. Trainee Executive Forum
	1. Membership for the Trainee Executive Forum (TEF) is currently by competitive process.
	2. An Executive Committee will be selected biennially and roles will be established and designed to optimise the function of the TEF. These roles may be reviewed and evolve as necessary to promote a well-functioning TEF. Ad hoc selections will be held for roles becoming vacant during the 2-year tenure.
	3. To deliver complete representation of postgraduate doctors and dentists in training in YH and sustain optimal function, the Executive Forum’s roles will be defined to reflect the needs of those it represents in the Yorkshire and the Humber region. These roles may be adapted or re-branded as required to map evolving needs of the region. It will always include the roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.
	4. It is currently comprised of the roles of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Quality lead, Employers lead, Wider Forum Lead, 3 x Locality Leads (West, South, North and East) 2 x Equality Diversity and Inclusion Leads, 2 x Less Than Full Time (LTFT) Lead, Communications and Engagement Lead and Wellbeing and Support lead.
	5. Advertisement of vacant TEF positions should be given at least 2 weeks prior to the closing date for applications.
	6. Notice must be given electronically to all forum members but may also be announced at meetings.
	7. Application requirements for vacant TEF executive positions have previously included submission of a CV, poster and video. Applications will be scored and decided upon by NHSE representatives, such as an Associate Dean and business manager, and current members of Trainee Executive Forum, including the Chair/Vice chair.
	8. Application Tenure for a seat on the TEF will be 2 years.
	9. It is acceptable to remain on the TEF for a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. If an Executive Forum member wishes to continue for a second term, a re-election process with support from the majority of the acting Executive Forum must occur.
	10. Tenure will automatically end should a postgraduate doctor or dentist in training cease to be a NHSE YH postgraduate doctor or dentist in training for any reason, including gaining an outcome 4 or 6 and being released from training.
	11. Postgraduate doctors and dentists in training on Out Of Programme (OOP) periods can hold their seat on the Executive Forum provided the doctor/dentist in training is residing within YH for a maximum of 1 year. After 1 year, it is expected that they will return to training or relinquish their seat.
	12. A postgraduate doctor or dentist in training serving as member of the TEF taking periods of parental or other statutory leave or sick leave may be deputised for during their absence. This pauses their tenure which resumes on their return from leave.
	13. It is recognised that the nature of postgraduate medical and dental training involves changes in work placements and localities. This may reduce a member’s flexibility and availability to be involved in the Executive Forum functions. If a postgraduate doctor or dentist in training wishes to be released from their role on the TEF they should give written notice to the Chair of the Trainee Forum giving 3 month’s notice. In exceptional circumstances a shorter notice period can be negotiated. A minimum of 1 year commitment to the Executive Forum roles is highly encouraged.
	14. If a specific representative role on the TEF, such as any future roles, would benefit from a shortened tenure duration, then the 2-year tenure may be reviewed.
	15. TEF members will have 2 periods of study leave per month to complete Trainee Forum work and attend Executive Forum meetings plus a further session per quarter to attend the Wider Forum quarterly meetings (one half day per meeting, therefore maximum 2 days per year). This leave is in addition to the standard 30 days PGDiT have for clinical training and the study leave allowance on Accent Leave Manager (ALM) will be increased to 44 days for TEF members. A period of study leave is classified as the normal time for PA allocation as for a consultant.
	16. The 14 additional days are to be used solely for the purpose of TEF related activities. This is the same requirement for both full time and less than full time postgraduate doctors and dentists (i.e. is not calculated pro-rata) in order to allow sufficient time to complete duties and attend meetings.
	17. It is the role of the chair to inform the NHSE YH Study Leave team on the appointment and leavers for TEF members, to enable the allowance on ALM to be amended as required. TEF members are however, responsible for requesting leave for themselves.
	18. A supporting letter (Appendix 2) can be provided to the TEF members' TPD and rota co-ordinator
	19. Additional meetings beyond this will need to be accommodated in the individuals’ study leave allowance.
	20. Leave for the two Maxcourses ‘Transforming Meetings’ and ‘NHS Structure and Power Dynamics’, which are offered to members of the TEF, will be taken from the postgraduate doctors’ and dentists’ usual study leave allowance, and this is classed as continuing professional development.
	21. Maxcourse access will be granted by the Future Leaders Programme (FLP) administration team upon appointment to a TEF position
	22. The TEF may appoint sub committees or representatives to lead specific areas of work.
	23. Additional members may be invited to attend the forum on an ad hoc basis to contribute to discussion about specific agenda items or lead work in their area of expertise.
2. Trainee Wider Forum

* 1. Membership for the Trainee Wider Forum is currently by non-competitive application.
	2. Membership to the Wider Forum is via a registration form.
	3. If multiple members from the same specialty, rotation, or school wish to attend Wider Forum meetings and this impacts service delivery, local resolution should follow this process:

3.3.1 First Meeting: The newest Wider Forum members have priority to attend the first meeting they are eligible for.

3.3.2 Subsequent Meetings: Attendance is determined by a rota, ensuring all members from the same specialty, rotation, or school have an opportunity to attend.

3.3.3 Information Sharing: Attendees are responsible for relaying key information to their colleagues within the same specialty, rotation, or school.

3.3.4 Implementation: It is the collective responsibility of Wider Forum members within the same specialty, rotation, or school to implement the agreed local resolution.

* 1. Application process to the Trainee Wider Forum will be reviewed on a minimum yearly basis, depending on numbers and spread of applicants.
	2. Trainee Wider Forum members will have 1 session of professional leave per month to complete TF work where required. Trainee Wider Forum members can apply for 1 session of professional leave per month, where possible, to complete TF work where required.

3.5.1 This is additional to study leave and should not be deducted from the postgraduate doctors’ and dentists’ normal study leave allowance

3.5.2 This is the same entitlement for both full time and less than full time postgraduate doctors and dentists (i.e. is not calculated pro-rata) in order to allow sufficient time to complete duties and attend meetings.

* 1. Professional leave is to be granted for the quarterly meetings (one half day per meeting, therefore maximum 2 days per year). If professional leave is not possible, then study leave may be considered to attend these meetings. Additional meetings beyond this will need to be accommodated in the individuals’ study leave allowance. Leave is subject to the usual approval processes.
1. Meetings
	1. Trainee Forum meetings and email communications will facilitate the collection, collation and dissemination of the views of postgraduate doctors and dentists in training on matters pertaining to training and professional needs.
	2. The Trainee Executive Forum will meet monthly, unless extraordinary circumstances require additional meetings.
	3. Meeting dates will be agreed by selection of the date and time when most Executive Forum members are able to attend.
	4. Dates of upcoming meetings should be agreed with at least 6 weeks’ notice.
	5. At the monthly meetings with the TEF, an invited attendance from the PGD, or Deputy Dean or Associate Dean, or NHSE Business Manager (i.e. Senior management from NHSE) is recommended. There will be an expected minimum quarterly attendance for part of the meeting, from a NHSE representative.
	6. The Chair and/or Vice Chair of the TEF will also aim to meet monthly with the Postgraduate Dean (PGD), outside of the monthly Trainee Executive Forum meetings. If this is not feasible, a quarterly basis is the minimum required.
	7. The Trainee Wider Forum will meet quarterly, unless extraordinary circumstances require additional meetings.

4.7.1 Meeting dates will be agreed for each training year (August to August) and ideally circulated 3 months in advance of each meeting, unless changed due to unforeseen circumstances.

4.7.2 Quarterly meetings with the Trainee Wider Forum with invited attendance for part of the meeting from PGD, or Deputy Dean or Associate Dean, or NHSE Business Manager (i.e. Senior management from NHSE) is recommended

* 1. The secretary will request agenda items from members two weeks in advance of the meeting. They will work with the Chair, or Vice-Chair if the Chair is unavailable, to agree the agenda and electronically circulate the agenda and meeting papers at least one week in advance of meetings.
	2. The Postgraduate Dean or a NHSE management/faculty representative will attend Trainee Forum meetings to update the Forum on developments, answer questions and report back on progress made on issues previously raised by the Forum. They will provide appropriate support, guidance and accountability. It is expected that this will be a minimum of quarterly.
	3. Trainee Wider Forum meetings will consist of an open section and a closed section. The open section will allow NHSE YH faculty/management and other interested parties[[1]](#footnote-2) to attend to feed into the TF functions. The closed part of the meeting will include only Trainee Forum members.

The Executive Forum and Wider Forum meetings will usually last around 3 hours depending on the agenda items.

* 1. Some sub committees may be formed and require additional meetings.
	2. Sub committees must be approved by the Chair of the Trainee Forum Executive (or the Vice Chair in their absence).
	3. The Forum will be quorate if the Chair or Vice Chair plus at least three additional Executive Forum members and three Wider Forum members attend, for the Executive Forum and Wider Forum respectively.
	4. Records of attendance and apologies will be kept, which may be requested by NHSE YH.
	5. A Trainee Executive Forum member will be expected to attend a minimum of 50% of monthly meetings and should send an update in advance of the meeting date if they are unable to attend.
	6. For Trainee Wider Forum members, active engagement is encouraged. Proactive involvement may be more helpful than mandated frequency and poor engagement. There is therefore no minimum attendance to maintain Wider Forum membership.
	7. Trainee Forum members are expected to send apologies when they cannot attend scheduled meetings. Apologies should be sent to the Secretary **and/or** Chair of the Forum.
	8. The use of technology (e.g. teleconferencing) to encourage participation will be facilitated.
	9. It is expected that the majority of Trainee Forum meetings will be held virtually in order to maximise participation. Face to face meetings will be arranged at the discretion of the Chair/ViceChair if safe to do so.
	10. Face to face meetings must occur in accessible buildings which cater to the needs of all Trainee Forum members.
	11. Expenses for travel to and from meetings will be reimbursed through the standard process via each Postgraduate doctor or dentist in training’s local postgraduate medical education centre.
	12. The Secretary will ensure minutes and action notes are recorded at meetings, or will nominate a deputy to do so.
		1. Minutes and action notes from meetings will be circulated to the Trainee Forum membership within 14 days of the meeting.
		2. Finalised Minutes of the Trainee Forum meetings will be public documents that will be published on the NHSE YH Trainee Forum[webpage](https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/medical_and_dental_training/trainee-forum-yh/meetings-and-minutes)[.](https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/medical_and_dental_training/trainee-forum-yh#:~:text=The%20Trainee%20Forum%20YH%20was,as%20a%20trainee%20in%20the)

1. Communications
	1. A specific Trainee Forum account will be used to circulate and receive Forum communications. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Dean’s Office will be able to access the email account.
	2. Information about the Trainee Forum, including the Executive and Wider Forum, will be available on the NHSE YH website following consent from individual members. Members of the Trainee Executive Forum will have access to website training and editing rights for these webpages, to ensure this information is up to date, relevant and informative.
	3. The Postgraduate Dean and Heads of Schools will ensure that NHSE YH postgraduate doctors and dentists in training are aware of the Trainee Forum either through direct communication or by allowing the Trainee Forum to cascade communications through their contact lists.
	4. Postgraduate doctors and dentists in training in the Yorkshire and the Humber region will be able to contact the Trainee Forum directly via the Forum email address (england.traineeforum.yh@nhs.net) to raise issues and make enquiries. Postgraduate doctors and dentists in training will also be able to contact the Trainee Forum through an anonymised form, accessed via the NHSE YH website [here.](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAYAAIxRzg5UOVdZU1ZVQTUyOEg3OE8wR0xFQ1NLVUhIQS4u)
	5. The Trainee Forum will not deal with potentially sensitive or serious issues relating to individual postgraduate doctors or dentists. In cases such as this, that are referred to the Trainee Forum, the postgraduate doctor or dentist will be signposted to appropriate sources of help or support.
	6. In the event of a serious disclosure to the Trainee Forum (such as a life threatening situation or workplace bullying/harassment) the Trainee Forum reserve the right to escalate this to the appropriate body/bodies.
	7. Information specific to individual training programmes will be communicated directly from the relevant School’s coordinator or administrator and is not the remit of the Trainee Forum.
	8. All communications will comply with NHSE Comms regulations. Specifically, Arial fonts and appropriate letter head and/or document templates should be used.
2. Responsibilities of Trainee Forum Representatives
	1. Postgraduate doctors and dentists in training who are members of the Trainee Executive Forum and Trainee Wider Forum are required to:

8.1.1. Recognise and celebrate the beautiful differences that we all possess and be open, respectful and inquisitive about opposing viewpoints and different experiences.

8.1.2 .Attend and participate in Trainee Forum Meetings and engage with the work of the Trainee Forum in order to receive acknowledgment of Trainee Forum membership.

* 1. Send apologies and an appropriate update for meetings they are not able to attend to the Secretary and/or Chair of the Forum.
	2. Prepare for and read papers for any meeting they attend and have access to them during the meeting.
	3. Ensure they have the capacity to meet the requirements of the role.
	4. Disseminate information and outcomes of the Trainee Forum to postgraduate doctor and dentist in training colleagues as and when directed by the Chair.
	5. Seek opinions and present the views of all postgraduate doctors and dentists in training in the Yorkshire and the Humber region. This may include, but is not limited to, meeting with Resident Doctor Forum representatives, School or Specialty representatives, BMA representatives, arranging open access meetings for local postgraduate doctors and dentists in training and other local Trainee Engagement Forums.
	6. Contribute and suggest items for the Trainee Forum agendas.
	7. Be a point of contact for postgraduate doctors and dentists in training wishing to raise issues and/or signpost as appropriate.
	8. Develop links with Schools/Directorates and other groups and committees as appropriate.
	9. Organise a handover for incoming Trainee Forum representatives including carrying out a comprehensive handover to the applicable successor.
	10. Work towards continuous improvement and sharing of good practice.
	11. Attend and participate in other meetings and events where postgraduate doctor or dentist in training involvement is required and at the request of the Postgraduate Dean.
	12. Promote and help raise awareness of Trainee Forum amongst postgraduate doctors and dentists in training.
	13. Maintain full confidentiality to postgraduate doctors and dentists in training raising issues with the Trainee Forum. All members will be required to adhere to professional standards of confidentiality should any sensitive matters arise as part of the Trainee Forum business. All Trainee Forum members should declare any conflicts of interest when/if they become apparent during the course of their tenure or prior to taking up the post. There will be a requirement that information governance training has been undertaken. Appropriate modules taken by employing trusts are adequate.
	14. Understand that NHSE YH is not the employer and although the Trainee Forum can campaign and collaborate to address employment issues locally, NHSE is unable to dictate employment conditions.

1. Development opportunities and Portfolio
	1. All members of the Trainee Forum will be signposted to the ‘Leadership for Clinicians Early in their Careers’ course, for postgraduate doctors and dentists in training up to ST4 level. (ST5+ level have access to a three-day ‘Leadership and Management’ course as part of their generic skills offer on Maxcourse).
	2. A letter of support for accessing the appropriate amount of professional leave will be provided upon appointment to the TEF and at the request of Wider Forum Members.

9.2.1 The letter of support is viewable in the Appendices

* 1. An annual certificate and/or letter of contribution/confirmation of attendance will be issued (electronically unless otherwise requested) acknowledging meeting attendance and thanking Trainee Forum members for their engagement, work and support.
	2. In addition to the above, members of the Trainee Executive Forum will have the opportunity to attend 2 courses during their tenure funded by NHSE YH. These are:

9.4.1 Transforming meetings

9.4.2 NHS structure and power dynamics

* 1. Members of the Trainee Executive Forum will also have the opportunity to complete the healthcare leadership 360 appraisal during their 2-year tenure.

1. Accountability
	1. The Trainee Forum is accountable to the Postgraduate Dean.

1. Review
	1. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.
2. Appendices

### Appendix 1: Trainee Forum; Executive and Wider Forum key features



### Appendix 2: Letter of support for Trainee Executive Forum Leave

Dear Colleague,

My name is Shrita Lakhani and I am writing in my role as Chair of the Yorkshire and the Humber (YH) Trainee Forum to support [Insert Name] request for study leave to carry out their duties as a member of the Trainee Executive Forum (TEF).

While I appreciate that we are in tough times in healthcare, I am looking at ways to support this initiative.

The TEF is a relatively new component of the Deanery structure within the new Workforce, Training and Education (WTE) structure (formerly HEE) to champion and develop trainee experience within the region.

The workings and arrangements of the TEF are under direct supervision of Andrew Brennan (Associate Dean) and supported by the Postgraduate Dean, Jon Cooper. When TEF members are appointed to the role, they are expected to attend two sessions (equivalent to 1 day) of study leave per calendar month to complete TEF work and attend TEF meetings with an additional session every quarter for a Wider Trainee Forum meeting. This equates to 14 days of additional study leave, which has been allocated to [Insert Name] study leave allowance on Accent Leave Manger.

The additional 14 days is solely for the purpose of TEF related activities. This includes carry out the tasks of the Forum by participating in a monthly meeting as well as active engagement with local and regional improvement projects as agreed from TEF meetings. In addition to this, there are add-hoc opportunities to attend conferences, which are funded by the trainee forum and are in addition to the 14 day study leave allowance.

These sessions are deemed as professional work and so the idea is that these are developmental in the role and not taken out of self-directed learning or personal time. It is the same requirement for those in both full time and less than full time posts in order to deliver the work (that is it is not pro-rata).

Dr Andrew Brennan is designated as a first point of contact to provide any clarifications needed. He can be contacted via email at andrew.brennan9@nhs.net

Once again, thanks for helping with this so we can make a sustained improvement to training postgraduate doctors and dentists in training in our region.

Yours faithfully,

Shrita Lakhani

Future Leaders Programme Fellow in Trainee Engagement - NHSE WTE Directorate YH

Chair of the Trainee Executive Forum (TEF) for Yorkshire & The Humber

Supported with the oversight and help of,

Dr Jon Cooper

Postgraduate Dean, NHS England, Education Yorkshire and Humber

1. This may include but is not restricted to the following roles: BMA representation, HR/Employer representatives, College representatives, People with appropriate specialist knowledge, postgraduate doctors and dentists in training invited to support the TF work but not elected onto the TF, Quality/Business Managers, School Faculty representation, Directors of Medical Education/ Medical Education Managers, Post Graduate Dean and/or their nominated representative. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)