

## Explanatory notes for therapists seeking to become trainers for Vocational Dental Therapists in Scotland

### Background

Traditionally, only dentists have been appointed as trainers for therapists. It is recognised that there is considerable expertise among those therapists working in general practice environments and a pilot will run this year seeking to introduce dental therapists as trainers. This is intended to augment, rather than challenge, the existing cohort of dentists who currently deliver high quality training for therapists in Scotland and it is anticipated that, if successful, the pilot will allow us to expand the number of therapist training posts offered.

### Part 1

#### General notes

Currently, therapists do not hold Health Board list numbers. This means that the responsibility for the activity of a therapist in training must rest with a dentist and to that end, we ask that therapists who intend to become trainers do so with the support of a dentist on part 1 of a Health Board list.

The therapist and supporting dentist would both be expected to meet the criteria required for Vocational Training. The applicant should use the 'further information' section (free text box without limit of size) to provide details of CPD and other requirements for the supporting dentist, as per the application form.

### Part 2

#### The application process

A number of fields within the application may present difficulty for therapist trainers. The form has been designed for dentists and as the utilisation of therapists as trainers is currently only in pilot form, the application form has not yet been updated to reflect this.

The areas within the application which may present challenges are:

#### About you

List number – A therapist does not hold a Health Board list number. This should be entered as the list number of the supporting dentist. **NB This cannot be entered as free text.** It is necessary to enter a list number and Health Board to the applicant's account. The system does not, however, validate this so it is possible to enter the details of the supporting dentist.

Current role – this should be entered principal GDP and a note entered in the [further information](#) section (separate tab) to clarify that the applicant is a therapist.

**Practice Information**

Patient details – trainer breakdown. This relates to the dentist who will be referring to the trainee therapist.

**CPD/Experience**

CPD – for therapists, a minimum of 75 hours is required in the 5 years prior to training. This is reduced pro-rata for under 5 years qualified.

Note – CPR training should be undertaken in each year.

Recruitment and selection and equality and diversity training will be facilitated through NES.

Primary care and managerial experience – A minimum 3 years is required which can include PDS activity, provided GDS work was undertaken, and may include your own experience as a VDT.

Applicants should have at least 1 year experience working in the proposed training practice.

Managerial experience should include day-to-day supervision of others and some understanding of practice management processes.

**Further information (declaration)**

DRO codes – these are not required for therapists, but an applicant must have no disciplinary or probity actions with GDC or Health Board.