Thank you for asking the HEE postgraduate dental Deans to consider the involvement of Dental Foundation Trainees (Foundation Dentists - FDs) in the delivery of additional NHS activity to address urgent dental care.

We are supportive of the FDs’ involvement but will apply the criteria are below in order to prioritise training and ensure wellbeing of trainees:

1. The FD voluntarily agrees to provide additional sessions.
2. The sessions (1 session is 3.5 hours) should be limited in number, 4-6 sessions a month ensuring at least 1 weekend free a fortnight.
3. There should be appropriate named support available on site to the FD during the clinical sessions, ideally the Educational Supervisor (ES) but may be an experienced dentist who has agreed to support the FD.
4. The FD must have received an Outcome 1 at Interim RCP (Outcomes available by the end of February 2022).
5. The trainee must have support of their ES and TPD to undertake sessions.
6. The request needs approval of the local HEE Dental Dean or nominated deputy.
7. Clinical activity undertaken in the additional session can be recorded on the FD’s portfolio it is expected that would see 4-6 patients a session. The activity will, however, be outside of the expected 1875 UDA activity target of a FD.
8. FDs should informer their indemnifier prior to undertaking additional sessions to ensure their indemnifier is aware of ‘out of training’ clinical activity and may be required to pay an additional fee.

Should the initiative continue beyond March 2022 permission to continue should be sought on a monthly basis.

With regard to fee received per session by the FD, HEE Dental Deans feel that this should be agreed between the FD and the NHS contract holder.

HEE will be developing a national template for trainees to complete to ensure appropriate agreement to the additional sessions as per the contract and educational agreement (see below).

DFT Contract wording:

18.7 unless as part of the training programme, not normally attend any patient or perform any operation or prosthetic work for any person other than the Practice. For the avoidance of doubt, the Foundation Dentist is prohibited from performing any out of hours work during the course of this contract unless it is with the prior written consent of the Educational Supervisor and the Postgraduate Dental Dean/Director. The Foundation Dentist should only perform operations they have been trained and are indemnified to do and should not perform operations outside the GDC Scope of Practice or their indemnity cover.

Educational Agreement wording:

3. Not to work any additional hours, outside the agreed hours of work, for additional monies within or outside the practice without the prior written consent of your Educational Supervisor and the Postgraduate Dental Dean/Director.