

# The Northern Ireland Dental Foundation Training Schemes for General Dental Practice for 2025 - 2026



## Joint DFT/DCT Study Day

**Tuesday 13 January 2026**

**Venue:** Linen Suite, Mossley Mill, 19 Carnmoney Road North, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA

**Time:** 09:15-17:00

09:15	Registration & Welcome	
09:30	<p><b>The Importance of Professionalism in Dentistry and Social Media Use</b></p> <p><b>Aim</b> To help dental professionals maximise the benefits of using social media and appreciate its pitfalls.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise the dento-legal issues that can arise when using different social media systems, including closed forums and private chat groups.</li> <li>• Be familiar with current GDC guidance relating to the appropriate use of social media.</li> <li>• Appreciate how to promote your practice ethically on social media and abide by current advertising standards.</li> <li>• Be aware of the risks of breaching confidentiality when using social media and what steps to take to protect the privacy of patients and colleagues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Learning outcomes</b> By the end of the presentation delegates should have an understanding of how to use social media effectively as a dental professional.</p> <p><b>GDC Development Outcomes: A &amp; D</b></p>	David Lauder Dento-Legal Adviser, DDU
11:00	Break	
11:30	<p><b>Running a High Street Orthodontic Service</b></p> <p><b>Aim</b> To give the delegates an overview of how an orthodontic referral service works at Kennedy Orthodontics.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b> To discuss the pros and cons of managing, owning, employing and for the implications and balance of a health care professional service.</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives</b> A brief overview of the management and clinical responsibilities of a high street orthodontic practice.</p> <p><b>GDC Development Outcomes A, B, C &amp; D</b></p>	David Kennedy Specialist Orthodontist, Kennedy Orthodontics
12:00	<p><b>Career Opportunities within the Community Dental Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Community Dental Service?</li> <li>• Types of Patients and Treatments.</li> <li>• Roles within the service.</li> <li>• Pathway to Community Dental Service.</li> <li>• Career Opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><b>GDC Development Outcome B</b></p>	Caroline Tiernan Community Dental Officer Southern HSC Trust

12:30	<p><b>Stress and Anxiety in Dentistry</b></p> <p>ConfiDental is a confidential listening ear and signposting helpline available 24/7, 365 days a year to all dental care professionals. Whether you're a dentist, dental hygienist, dental therapist, dental technician, dental nurse or dental care student, ConfiDental is here to support you.</p>	Jeremy Cooper Chairman, ConfiDental Helpline Charity
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	<p><b>Interview Techniques – Preparing for an Interview</b></p> <p><b>Aim</b> To prepare the dental trainees for assessment and interview.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve dentists' ability to confidently articulate their clinical experience and decision-making using common competency-based interview questions.</li> <li>• Strengthen communication skills by practising structured, patient-centred responses that demonstrate professionalism, empathy, and alignment with the organisation's values.</li> </ul> <p><b>Learning Content</b> In this activity, participants are guided to explore their clinical and professional strengths by reflecting on key experiences that highlight their approach to patient care, teamwork, and problem-solving, and by practising how to articulate these examples with clarity and confidence. They are supported to critically evaluate the training placement or job description, identifying the core requirements of the role, what genuinely motivates them about it, and where their skills and values align or offer added value. By combining personal reflection with structured analysis of the post, participants learn to craft more targeted, relevant responses in both applications and interviews, ensuring their examples directly speak to the needs and expectations of the position. The session uses interactive discussion, paired activities, and applied exercises to help participants translate their insights into well-structured, evidence-based interview answers.</p> <p><b>GDC Development Outcomes A, B &amp; D</b></p>	Ruth Gray Clinical Facilitator, NIMDTA
15:00	<p><b>Personal Financial Literacy for Early Career Dentists</b></p> <p><b>Aim</b> To increase young, early career dentists' confidence when it comes to their personal finance.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve knowledge of factual matters such as tax, pensions, debt, saving and investing money, retirement etc to increase the early career dentists' knowledge and confidence.</li> <li>• To explore some of the psychology of good personal finance and how to avoid some of the pitfalls that lead to difficulties for some dentists in their careers.</li> </ul> <p><b>GDC Development Outcome C</b></p>	Amir Katabchi Consultant Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon, Western Trust
15:45	Break	
16:00	<p><b>My Career to Date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialty Training in Restorative Dentistry.</li> <li>• Preparing for and navigating the Interview Process.</li> <li>• Research/Academic posts.</li> </ul>	Jamie Coulter StR in Restorative Dentistry, Belfast Trust
16:30	<p><b>My Career to Date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialty training in Oral Surgery.</li> <li>• Building your CV.</li> <li>• Applying for Training/Self-assessment.</li> </ul>	Rebekah Milligan StR in Oral Surgery, Belfast Trust
17:00	Finish	