

BADN CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMES CONTRACT CHANGES

The British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) cautiously welcomed the NHS England contract changes announced on 19 July.

The changes indicate support for more efficient use of the full range of skills of all members of the dental team, including dental nurses, and that steps will be taken to remove unnecessary restrictions on dental care professionals (DCPs). However, BADN warns that dental team members – particularly dental nurses, the lowest paid members of the dental team, many of whom are paid only minimum wage – must be adequately recompensed for an enhanced role, and that support for training has to be forthcoming.

President-elect Debra Worthington said: 'BADN support this reform and look forward to working with the Office of the Chief Dental Officer in developing it further.'

EDUCATION SUPERVISORS APPOINTED FOR NEW FOUNDATION DENTAL THERAPISTS PILOT SCHEME

Community Dental Services CIC (CDS CIC) dentists Catriona Brown, Associate Operations Director in Lincolnshire and Akhila Kotta, Senior Dental Officer in Norfolk & Waveney, have been accepted as Education Supervisors for the new Foundation Dental Therapists (DFTs). This is a new pilot scheme funded by Health Education England (HEE) and Catriona and Akhila have undertaken three days of training to prepare for their roles, which started on 1 September.

Catriona said: 'The foundation training year for dental therapists is optional, and in the past the scheme has only come with a small bursary. This year sees a pilot scheme fully funded through HEE. The aim is to support the newly qualified individual to be a competent independent clinician by the end of a 12-month period, through regular assessments and tutorials, clinical support and training.'

Catriona and Akhila will have two DFTs allocated to their service, both working 2.5 days each.

Akhila said: 'The deanery arranges days for others in the scheme to shadow their colleagues, so this will be a fantastic opportunity for us to also show how special care dentistry and community dental services differs from general dentistry. It is an exciting opportunity for our service and area.'

Catriona believes this is important to CDS: 'We think we offer an excellent training platform and also the skill-mix within the dental team is really important when providing an effective and efficient service. Our current therapists use all their clinical competencies. If we can show the opportunities working in a community dental service can offer, then it may open up future training options in the future, possibly for paediatrics or special care dentistry.'

UNIQUE UCLAN CDT COURSE PRODUCES FIRST GRADUATES

The first cohort of students on the BSc Clinical Dental Technology course has graduated from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

Believed to be the first in the UK, the degree programme has been recently approved by the General Dental Council (GDC) and prepares graduates to work within dental technology, making and fitting dentures and other appliances directly to patients, and in primary care dentistry.

Graduate Léna Roger said: 'It is really exciting that we are the first full-time clinical dental technicians to graduate in the UK.'

'I have always had an interest in dentistry. I enjoy helping people and as I am a very practical person; the course seamlessly blends these two aspects together. I also really enjoyed how much time we were able to spend in clinic with our own patients, as well as being able to have lots of time in labs to improve our technical skills.'

The structure of the course allows clinical dental technology and dental surgery students to learn clinical, technical and professional skills together using the on-site dental laboratory, which hosts phantom head facilities, and the UCLan Dental Clinic.

Fellow graduate Emily Thomas, who has



First cohort BSc (Hons) Clinical Dental Technology: Ir Agnes Zlotnicka, Léna Roger, Sarah Okinedo and Emily Thomas

now been accepted onto the UCLan graduate entry Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree, said: 'I received an education that was second-to-none with exceptional skills training and a large amount of hands-on clinical experience, which was outstanding.'

'I've always had interest in studying a course related to dentistry and this course was unique and innovative. Not only did it stimulate manual dexterity, but it also allowed me to gain experience in the UCLan Dental Clinic working closely with patients.'

The clinical dental technology degree is part of a suite of dentistry courses offered by the UCLan Dental School, which was recognised in the UK's Best Breakthroughs list: 100+ Ways Universities Have Improved Everyday Life for its innovative approach to dental health training. The School was the first to execute a new model of dental education, which allows graduate entry BDS students to gain their experience in areas of high need and poor dental health where access to NHS dentistry was previously limited.