General Medical Council

Annual Quality Assurance Summary

This summary provides an overview of how an organisation is meeting our standards for medical education and training as detailed in *Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training* and *Assuring readiness for practice: a framework for the MLA*. It provides an overview of the QA activities undertaken over the course of a year and an overview of findings including any areas of notable practice or requirements and recommendations we have set. The summary is published.

Organisation	Keele University School of Medicine
Review period	November 2025 – November 2026 (Year 3 of cycle)

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement
In 2025 we decided that medical schools and postgraduate training organisations that had completed an initial cycle of four self-assessment questionnaires could move to a biennial submission, following an assessment of their previous submissions. As a result of this assessment Keele University School of Medicine has now moved to a biennial model so did not submit a self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ) in 2025/2026. The next date of submission is 29 November 2026. From the clarification of some points during the engagement meeting, we consider that Keele University School of Medicine is meeting the standards set out in the GMC's *Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training.* The QA activities that we have carried out in this annual cycle have provided opportunities to observe how Keele University School of Medicine meets our standards in all themes of *Promoting excellence* and demonstrates continued compliance with *Assuring readiness for practice: a framework for the MLA* (the 'MLA Framework'). We have set requirements and recommendations where our standards are not being met and have identified areas working well or of notable practice.

The GMC is a charity registered in England and Wales (1089278) and Scotland (SC037750)

Quality activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary
1	Annual quality engagement meeting	26 March 2026	The annual quality engagement meeting was attended by members of the GMC's education QA team and the Keele University School of Medicine Quality team. Key themes discussed were resource and staffing pressures affecting teaching and support services, increased workload linked to the School's proposed overseas medical programme based in Greece, and potential impacts on student learning opportunities due to restricted access to some equipment. The team also highlighted proactive work in responding to learning from Operation Anzu, with patient safety remaining the central focus.
2	MLA document review	21 September 2026	This is a document review of information provided to students to help familiarise them with the applied knowledge test and explain how it will run on the day. No specific concerns have been identified within this area during the original compliance exercise and the School have no outstanding recommendations or next submissions to review. However, this is an opportunity to evaluate current practice, confirm ongoing compliance, and identify any areas for improvement. This activity will focus on AKT Requirement 9, Support for candidates. Keele University School of Medicine submitted all requested documentation on time, and a review is currently underway. The findings will be reported in next year's AQAS, allowing time for the feedback to be finalised with the University.
3	Observation of a quality visit	2 December 2026	This activity was selected to explore how Keele University School of Medicine are meeting our standards, and for the purpose of this activity we will be focussing on Theme 2: educational governance and leadership.

			We will report on this activity in next year's AQAS, as the timing falls outside the current reporting cycle.

Quality Reporting System (QRS)

We use the QRS to monitor concerns raised by organisations when they identify that our standards are not being met in an education and training environment. Concerns are managed locally by the responsible organisation until resolution. We also use the QRS to monitor requirements and recommendations set by the GMC.

Activity	Date	Summary
Quality Reporting System (QRS)	Ongoing	Keele University School of Medicine has one open items on the QRS. Keele University School of Medicine is engaged with the QRS system and continue to provide frequent and detailed updates. We are assured that our thresholds for reporting via the QRS are embedded and adhered to.

Requirements

We set requirements where we have found that our standards are not being met. We will monitor each organisation's response and will expect evidence that progress is being made during the next QA cycle.

No requirements have been set during this annual QA cycle.

Recommendations

We set recommendations where we have found areas for improvement related to our standards. They highlight areas an organisation should address to improve, in line with best practice.

No recommendations have been set during this annual QA cycle.

Next steps

The GMC's written feedback on the SAQ submitted in November 2024 lists any areas that we require an update on in the next SAQ submission. These include:

Theme one – Learning environment and culture

LEC1-04 - Multi-professional learning opportunities

An update on the multiprofessional high fidelity simulation being piloted.

LEC1-12 - Completion of all practical skills and procedures to the required level of competence (as detailed in Outcomes for graduates, including recent changes to the list)

An update on how the School has ensured that *Outcomes for graduates* and the related Practical skills and procedures are mapped back to the curriculum and assessed at appropriate points.

Theme two – Educational governance and leadership

EGL1-02 - How level of risk and subsequent actions are determined

An update on progress relating to the School's risk processes.

EGL2-02 - You share information (including educational governance issues) between relevant organisations (including regulators, medical schools and royal colleges where relevant)

An update on whether common concerns across other programmes are considered as part of discussions with other medical schools and the postgraduate training organisation in the region.

EGL2-08 - You check for, and when they arise are able to manage, progression and fitness to practice issues in line with GMC guidance

An update on progress relating to capturing the anecdotal positive feedback from students involved in the process.

EGL3-02 - Undergraduate assessment and selection

An update on whether students who engage with the 'The Aspiring Medics Support' programme are monitored in terms of progression outcomes and support needs. We would also welcome any information regarding the challenges and benefits of this programme.

Theme three – Supporting learners

SUL1-01 - The health and wellbeing of learners is promoted

An update on the development of the new Placement toolkit, including how students have inputted to this resource and any feedback received from staff and students.

SUL1-03 - Learners are supported when studying outside of the Medical School, and at transition points in their training pathway (eg into medical school, pre-clinical into clinical, into foundation training)

An update on the expansion to years 3 and 4 of the new information hub.

Theme 5 – Developing and implementing curricula and assessments

DCA1-03 - The opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of the needs of patients from diverse social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds

An update on the Decolonising the Curriculum page being developed on the School's website, to provide staff and students access to updates on work in this area and useful resources.

DCA1-04 - Learning opportunities to enable them to develop generic professional capabilities

An update on whether professionalism is considered when a skill is signed off and how students receive feedback on their generic professional skills, including any feedback received from other healthcare professionals, patients or families.

DCA2-01 - Your assessments are fair, reliable and mapped to your curriculum

An update on the ALIGN study findings, if the study has now been published.

Organisation's response

The organisation has the right to reply to this summary; if they have responded it will be included below.

Organisation's response
The GMC's assessment provides welcome external assurance that Keele University School of Medicine continues to meet the standards of 'Promoting Excellence' and 'Assuring Readiness for Practice'. We are encouraged that, following review of our engagement with GMC quality assurance processes, the School has been moved to a biennial QA submission cycle. The School remains committed to delivering a high-quality educational experience that is responsive to student feedback, supports learner wellbeing, and prepares graduates for contemporary clinical practice. We value the opportunity to discuss both achievements and challenges through the GMC quality process and will continue to work closely with our NHS and university partners to address any emerging risks and further enhance educational quality. We are committed to transparency and sharing the broader impact of our transnational educational activities and have updated our QRS accordingly. We welcome the areas identified for future update and reflection and look forward to demonstrating continued progress through our next SAQ submission. We thank the GMC for its constructive engagement and ongoing support of medical education at Keele.