General Medical Council

Annual Quality Assurance Summary NHS England East of England 2025-2026

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*. 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	NHS England East of England (NHSE EoE)
Review period	Dec 2025 – December 2026 (Year 2 of cycle)

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement
The QA activities that we have carried out in this annual cycle have provided opportunities to observe how NHSE EoE meets our standards across all themes of *Promoting excellence*. We have set no requirements or recommendations in this cycle. 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 NHSE EoE 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 December 2026 as part of the 2026-2027 cycle.

Quality activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary

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

1	Annual quality engagement meeting	25 November 2025	The annual quality engagement meeting was attended by members of the GMC's education QA team and the NHSE EoE Quality team. At this meeting, we reviewed open risk items, the National Training Survey (NTS) priority areas for both 2025 and NTS comments. Next steps were agreed, and NHSE EoE explained how the organisations on the Priority List will be monitored through quality processes. We also discussed sites of interest including maternity sites in the region.
2	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion action plan (including differential attainment)	January 2026	We asked all postgraduate training organisations to submit an action plan detailing how they are working to address the attainment gap in their region. This plan was submitted by NHSE EoE in January 2026 and we provided feedback in August 2026 NHSE EoE submitted its East of England – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2025/26 in fulfilment of our requirement for an annual action plan to address discrimination and disadvantage in medical education. The plan covered six high impact actions which have been identified to achieve the goal of embedding equity throughout all aspects of medical education. There is a clear commitment to address inequalities, and we are pleased to see several well embedded mechanisms to do so, such as the reciprocal mentoring scheme and enhanced inductions. We've also identified some areas which EoE may wish to consider further to help it achieve its goals. We were unable to meet with EoE to discuss the plan in more detail due to GMC capacity issues. We look forward to a more in-depth conversation following the submission of the next action plan. We will follow-up with NHSE EoE on progress against the action plan through our proactive quality assurance process, and we

			will require an updated action plan alongside the next SAQ submission in December 2026. In the next submission we would be interested to know about the uptake of enhanced induction in the region and the STAR programme, along with analysis of "safe spaces" for raising concerns and the impact of reciprocal mentoring on learner attainment. We would also be interested to understand how accountability for EDI is promoted to local site leadership and supervisors, how the learner voice is considered when designing interventions. Additionally, we would like to know about any measurable objectives or actions regarding sexual misconduct, alongside details on enhanced exam support and additional learner support mechanisms—including those aimed at newly qualified doctors preparing for their first job. We would also be interested to know how addressing the educator attainment gap will impact learner differential attainment, how this will be measured, and how EoE ensures educator EDI training remains up to date.

Enhanced Monitoring

Enhanced monitoring is used to promote and encourage local management of concerns which adversely affect patient or trainee safety, doctors' progress in training, or the quality of the training environment. During enhanced monitoring, the GMC provides an increased level of monitoring and participate in activities organised by the deanery/HEE local office. We tailor our support to each enhanced monitoring case to help address the concern(s) and develop a sustainable solution. We have summarised the enhanced monitoring activity this organisation has undertaken over the last 12 months below. For further information on enhanced monitoring please visit our website.

Activity	Date	Summary
Enhanced monitoring activities	Ongoing	NHSE EoE currently have 3 open enhanced monitoring cases within the region. 2 of the 3 enhanced monitoring

		cases have been opened within the current reporting year, and zero cases have been closed. NHSE EoE follows the GMC's enhanced monitoring process appropriately, updating the GMC on live cases. They also update the GMC on potential cases and include the GMC in decisions regarding escalation to and de-escalation from enhanced monitoring. The GMC has been involved in quality visits alongside NHSE EoE as part of the enhanced monitoring process, and further information on enhanced monitoring visits can be found on the GMC website. We will continue to work in collaboration with NHSE EoE.

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	NHSE EoE have 10 open items on the QRS of which 3 are enhanced monitoring items. NHSE EoE 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 and we will continue to work in collaboration with NHSE EoE.

Next steps

1. The GMC's written feedback on the SAQ submitted in the 2024-2025 cycle lists areas that we require an update on in the next SAQ submission.
2. We would like the next SAQ to also include any updates to Gibraltar training placements if these are being planned.
3. We would like the next EDI action plan to include areas we would like to know about as mentioned above and in the feedback

4. We would also like to improve our understanding of NHSE EoE's quality processes as there is a period of transformation and any impacts of this

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