

Statement from Academy Trainee Doctors' Group

The 2017 GMC National Training Survey report highlights some areas of excellence in the training of doctors in the UK. Doctors have reported good quality training and experience in all specialities.

However, the survey also raises concerns, which must not be ignored. Training is delivered in an environment of heavy workloads, with doctors in training regularly working beyond their rostered hours and working while short of sleep. Both trainees and trainers have raised serious patient safety concerns. 20% of trainers report that there were not enough staff at their trust/board to ensure patients are always treated by someone with an appropriate level of clinical experience. This was reflected by the doctors in training, with 30% of foundation doctors reporting they had to deal with situations beyond their competence.

Bullying and undermining continue to cause toxic educational environments. This report demonstrates how bullying and undermining leads to retention and workload issues, which further impact on patient safety.

Although improved rota design can lead to improved training and experience, no amount of creative design can make up for the current rota gaps that are impacting on training opportunities. If the UK wants to continue to produce high-quality GP and specialists then we need to invest more resources in our medical workforce. Trainers need the time, resources and recognition to train doctors to deliver first class healthcare and ensure patient safety.

The Academy Trainee Doctors' Group (ATDG) is committed to working practically with all our health care partners to bring about the culture change needed to ensure supportive environments for all healthcare staff in the UK.

Dr Alice Wort

Chair of the Academy Trainee Doctors' Group