

**To: General Dental Practitioners**

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

[GDS.Correspondence@hscni.net](mailto:GDS.Correspondence@hscni.net)

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Colleague

**Redeployment Opportunity: Care Home Support - Urgent Request for Expression of Interest**

Now that the essential Urgent Dental Care Centres have been established and the Financial Support Scheme (FSS) is up and running we have been asked to turn our attention to redeployment of the workforce, a key piece in our joint efforts to safeguard essential healthcare services.

I would like to draw to your attention an important redeployment opportunity which has been identified across the region relating to support to our local care homes. Our social and community care colleagues have detailed the role outlined below:

- **Role** – Support to local care homes
- **Location** – There are c.500 nursing and residential homes across Northern Ireland. It is anticipated that volunteers would be allocated to a facility within their local area. Choice of facility may be noted in your return and we will attempt to facilitate this where possible.
- **Hours** – The expected level of commitment would be between two and six sessions per week to be undertaken during standard core hours (i.e. 8am to 6pm, seven days). It is anticipated that the hours can be flexibly arranged at a local level to work around any other working commitments.
- **Duties** – identified volunteers would cover a range of tasks within the facility to include the following:
  1. Providing support, guidance and education to staff in regards to infection prevention and control and appropriate use of PPE;
  2. Swab testing of symptomatic residents (with appropriate PPE); *and*
  3. Management of PPE stock.

Any additional duties would be subject to individual agreement (and training where required) at a local level.

You will be aware that a condition of the FSS is that 'GDPs, specialist practitioners and other staff must assist the wider HSC, when asked by the HSCB where possible.' Please be assured that time committed to this role will be considered

towards the description of redeployment referred to in the FSS released by the Department of Health.

In the event that:

1. You are already committed to:

- the Dalriada Urgent Care triage rota;
- the Urgent Dental Care Centres treatment rota;
- the COVID medical centre driver scheme; and / or
- supervising a foundation dentist in an Educational Supervisor role

or

2. You are unable to work in a setting which involves face to face contact - please refer to guidance in the following link:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-health-care-workers-underlying-health-conditions>

then we would request that you do not volunteer for additional duties at this time.

There is an urgent need for volunteers to start as soon as possible therefore if you are in a position to assist with this request please respond by 2pm on Thursday 23rd April by e-mail to [GDS.Correspondence@hscni.net](mailto:GDS.Correspondence@hscni.net). It would be very helpful if you can please respond directly to the e-mail issued with this letter titled 'GDP Redeployment - Care Home Support' and provide the following in your response (for ease of response you can use the template table included within the e-mail issued with this letter):

- Name
- GDC number
- Contact number
- Your home address
- Available sessions - please specify am/pm and days available

One of the team will be subsequently in touch with you to make relevant arrangements and to clarify indemnity, honorary contracts and other arrangements.

I am grateful for your ongoing support at this time as dentistry continues to expand its role and support for colleagues across the HSC in the COVID 19 response.

Kind regards,



Michael Donaldson  
Head of Dental Services