

# 'Making a Mark'

## Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

### Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise

Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise (PDSE) is committed to improving oral health across the South West through treatment, education, community and training.

We provide free NHS dental treatments to patients in Devon and Cornwall, who do not have access to a dentist. These are often people in socially disadvantaged groups.

Treatments are carried out by undergraduate dental students from the Peninsula Dental School, who receive clinical placements in our four clinics in Devon and Cornwall.

They have access to state of the art facilities, and are also involved in a wide range of community projects supported by our Community Engagement Team.



The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **PDSE** is Making a Mark, striving to make a difference to society:

### Providing free dental treatment

PDSE has treated almost **10,000** patients in the last year, providing first class clinical services at no cost to the patient. Most patients have no access to a dentist, often as a result of social healthcare inequalities, which PDSE seeks to address.

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## Training the dental care workers of the future



PDSE has provided clinical placements for **267** dental undergraduates in the last year, supporting professional learning with excellent facilities and a dedicated professional team of dental nurses and support staff and highly qualified supervising dentists.

A new Dental School program to train undergraduate Therapy Hygiene students is also now supported by clinical placements in our clinics, promoting team working within the dental professions.

PDSE has also started an apprenticeship program for trainee dental nurses, widening access to a professional career and participation in education.

## Making a difference in the community

The PDSE Community Engagement Team has developed a range of innovative programs designed to promote oral health and oral health education, and also to involve students in community projects. Some examples are:

- The Dental Ambassadors project which trains adults with physical and learning disabilities to provide peer learning in the setting of their own community group
- The Open Wide and Step Inside animated film which gives simple oral health messages to primary school age children
- Setting up and supporting brushing clubs in local primary schools, providing oral health education and curriculum support in early years education, with additional learning materials developed by the team



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