Regional F2 Study Program- a novel approach
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Background
Lifelong learning has long been recognised as a key facet in providing good medical practice. Unfortunately, in a busy workplace with considerable service pressures and potential barriers to learning, it can be difficult to provide these opportunities for learning and personal development.

Severn Deanery covers many different hospital trusts, spread across a wide geographical area. The deanery has previously experienced heterogeneity, in both quality and quantity, in the teaching opportunities available to its foundation trainees.

A review of teaching across the Deanery revealed the following problems:
- Large variations in the quantity of in-house teaching delivered by the various Trusts
  → Ranging from 9 - 71 hours, mean 50, median 51
- Trainees found it very difficult to leave their departments during busy times to attend part-day teaching
- Difficulty to assess quality of teaching across the region

Severn foundation school sought to improve the situation with an innovative regional study program.

Method
A formal deanery-wide teaching program was instituted with a centrally co-ordinated online booking system, NHS Managed Learning Environment (MLE).

The study days are provided throughout the region by the various hospital trusts.

The opportunity was taken to include a more diverse catalogue of topics such as: leadership, humanities, performing arts, research methods, and paediatrics (see Table 1). This allows trainees to choose their areas of interest and to tailor their training to their needs. The selection of topics is flexible and has expanded since its inception.

Pre-approved study leave ensures trainees can leave their work environment and focus fully on the educational day ahead.

Provision is also in place for trainees to take a greater role in the delivery of teaching to wider audiences.

Quality assurance of all teaching provided is now comparable across the region as feedback is collated in a consistent manner.

Potential obstacles to this new program were identified and addressed early (see Table 2).

### List of Regional Study Days Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute Medical Emergencies</td>
<td>Strictly Psychiatry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergencies and Critical Care</td>
<td>Sexual Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Skills</td>
<td>Crisis Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paediatric Emergencies</td>
<td>Life After F2 - Career Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paediatrics</td>
<td>Leadership For Foundation Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronic Illness and Disability</td>
<td>Innovations Presentation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities in medicine</td>
<td>Medico-Legal Aspects and Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human factors</td>
<td>Dealing with Conflicts and Complaints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing Chronic Disease in Primary Care</td>
<td>Research and Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of the dying and bereavement</td>
<td>Teaching the Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palliative Care and Oncology</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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### Potential barriers | How these were addressed
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Concern about how teaching could be co-ordinated and whether trainees would attend | Online booking system, Attendance records kept
Trust reluctance based on: Financial cost of providing the study days | Deanery support of £1000 per study day
Loss of all F2s from clinical area at the same time | Study days repeated throughout the year, with limited numbers per day
Providing quality assurance for their teaching | Standardised feedback system allowing comparable quality assurance

Table 2. Potential barriers to the new system.

### Results

Standardised feedback, asking the following six questions is gathered from attendees: Overall impression, preparation, content, method, opportunity to ask questions and relevance to F2.

Each category is graded from 0-4: Excellent 4, Good 3, Average 2, Poor 1

Feedback for the program is positive, with all study days averaging good-excellent ratings (>3). See Figure 1.

### Feedback for Study Days 2012-2013

![Feedback Figure](image)

Figure 1. Average scores for study days 2012-2013

Key Messages
Severn has instituted a novel regional teaching program with an electronic booking system for Deanery-wide study days.

This approach has many benefits:
- Provides a standardised teaching experience for all trainees
- Reduces the impact of work-flow pressures
- Provides a diverse catalogue of study days
- Enhances academic networking throughout the region.
- The program has uniform quality-assured content and standardised feedback.

The program has been very well received and allows foundation doctors to tailor their training to their individual educational needs.

### References