

Somerset ICB Dental Induction Pack 2025

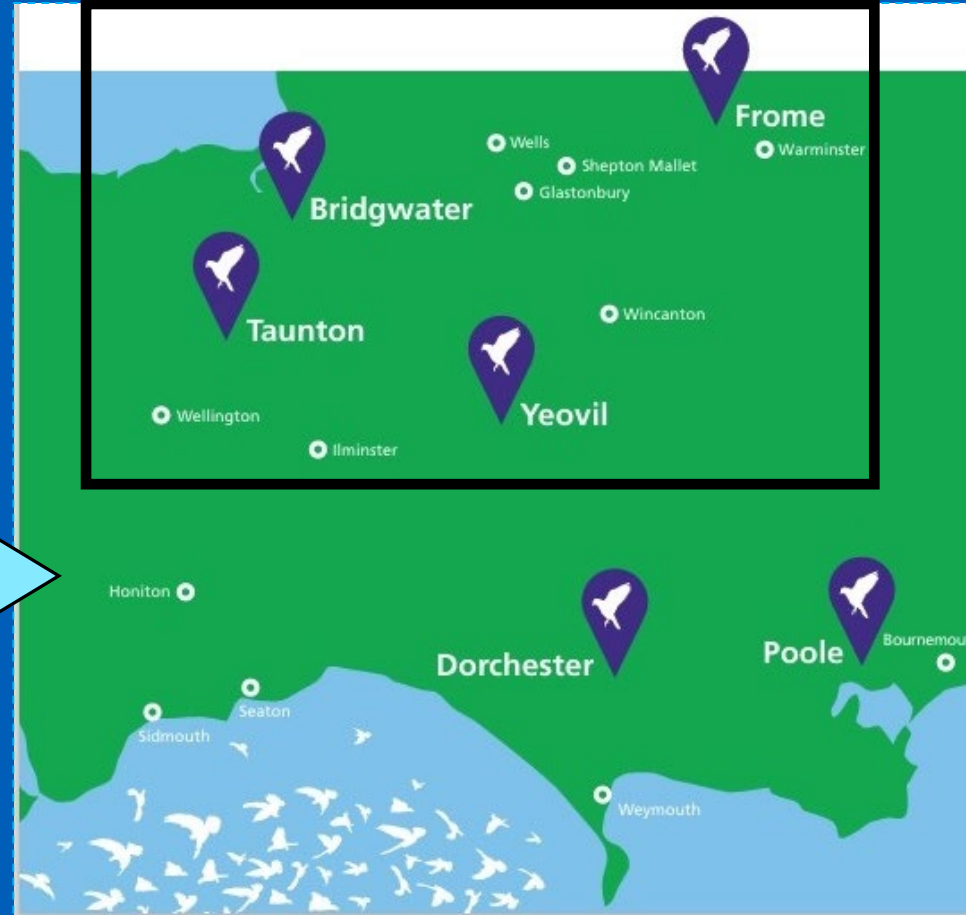


Somerset ICB Dental Induction Pack 2025

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1. Where Are We?



2. Welcome To Somerset

- 86.3% of people living in Somerset are very or fairly satisfied with where they live, well above the national average of 78.6% (The Place Survey, 2008).
- The West Somerset Railway is the longest preserved steam railway in the country.
- Somerset is home to the world-renowned Glastonbury Music Festival, attended by around 200,000 people each year.
- The largest collection of Roman coins was found near Frome in Somerset.
- Situated within the small village of Stanton Drew is the third largest complex of prehistoric standing stones in England dating back 4000 years.
- Known as one of Britain's most breath-taking natural landmarks, Cheddar Gorge is the largest gorge of its kind in Britain.
- Somerset is home to some of the most iconic food brands in the world including Cheddar and Cider!



3. Why Somerset?

Somerset has:

- **62** GP Surgeries.
- **2** Acute hospitals and **12** Community hospitals.
- **100** pharmacies.
- **262** dentists working in the NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board area in 2023/24.
- **1** National Park (Exmoor)
- **4** Areas of Outstanding National Beauty: the Quantock Hills, Mendip Hills, Blackdown Hills, and part of Cranborne Chase.



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3. Why Somerset?

- There are **266** state-funded schools (including **140** Academies), **4** FE colleges, **5** Free school and **34** Independent schools in Somerset (2023/24)
- **81%** of schools in Somerset were judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding in their most recent overall effectiveness judgement (August 2024) ([GOV](#)).
- Low rates of crime.
- The vibrant city of Bristol and Exeter are about **70** minutes away by car or about **130** minutes away by a direct train. The beautiful beach town of Weymouth is around **40** minutes away by car or **50** minutes away by a direct train.
- **London** (Paddington Station) is around **90 minutes** away by **direct** train from **Castle Cary**, Somerset.



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4. Information For International Dentists

- Somerset is renowned for its breathtaking countryside, historic landmarks, and vibrant communities, offering an exceptional quality of life.
- From the rolling Mendip Hills and the stunning Somerset Levels to the cultural hubs of Bath, Taunton, and Wells, our region provides an outstanding work-life balance for dental professionals.
- We are actively recruiting talented and passionate dental graduates, particularly those seeking Foundation Dentistry placements, to join our practices across Somerset.
- With a stable patient base and a strong demand for high-quality dental care, we offer a range of opportunities, including:
- Foundation Dentistry Placements: Comprehensive training programs with experienced Educational Supervisors to support newly qualified dentists in their transition to independent practice.
- Mentorship & Career Development: Structured guidance from senior clinicians, hands-on experience, and access to CPD opportunities to accelerate professional growth.



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4. Information For International Dentists

- State-of-the-Art Facilities: Work in modern, well-equipped practices with cutting-edge technology and a patient-focused approach.
- NHS & Private Dentistry Options: Gain experience in both NHS and private dentistry, with pathways to develop special interests.
- Competitive Relocation & Incentive Packages: Financial support and assistance to help make Somerset your professional home.
- Beyond professional opportunities, Somerset offers an unparalleled lifestyle.
- Whether it's exploring the stunning coastline, enjoying local food festivals, or engaging in outdoor activities, the region provides a fantastic environment to live and work.



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5. Local Dental Committee (LDC)

- The **Somerset Local Dental Committee (LDC)** is the statutory body representing NHS dentists in Somerset.
- As an essential part of the dental profession's governance, the LDC plays a key role in **supporting, advising, and advocating** for local dental practitioners while working closely with the NHS.
- Specifically, the LDC works with NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB), Integrated Care Systems (ICS), and other healthcare bodies.



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6. LDC Functions and Responsibilities

- **Representation & Advocacy:** Acting as the official voice of NHS dental professionals in discussions with NHS England, NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB) and other stakeholders.
- **Support & Guidance:** Offering advice, guidance, and practical support to local dentists on contractual, regulatory and professional matters.
- **Liaison with Health Authorities:** Facilitating communication between NHS commissioners and dental professionals to ensure effective policy implementation.
- **Workforce & Professional Development:** Organising CPD (Continuing Professional Development) events, training programs and networking opportunities for local dentists.
- **Handling Professional Concerns:** Assisting dentists with issues related to NHS contracts, practice management, and professional challenges.



7. LDC Membership

The Somerset LDC is comprised of elected representatives from NHS dental practices across Somerset. Members typically include:

- **General Dental Practitioners (GDPs)** – Representing NHS and mixed practices within Somerset.
- **Specialist Dentists** – Providing expertise on advanced dental services.
- **Community & Public Health Dentists** – Ensuring dental care accessibility and outreach programs.

Dental Committee Officers

Andre Louw, Chair, Practice: Quantock View Dental Centre, Somerset; alouwha@gmail.com

Lucy Parke, Secretary, Practice: Cheddar Dental Practice, Somerset; lucy.parke@btinternet.com

Peter Hollins, Treasurer, Practice: Parkfield Dental Centres, Somerset; peter.hollins@hotmail.co.uk

Other LDC members not holding posts: Simon Albiston, Nick Foster, Jeremy Lyle, Vinay Shah, Susan Williams. Sajid Baloch holds the post of Interim Strategy and Business Development Consultant



8. LDC Collaboration and Future Goals

- Somerset LDC is committed to ensuring high-quality dental care for patients, promoting workforce sustainability, and engaging with policy changes affecting NHS dentistry.
- It works closely with dental schools, public health bodies, and professional organisations to address challenges such as recruitment, retention, and service improvements.
- Should you wish, you can join the LDC.



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9. Useful Contacts

Somerset ICS: <https://oursomerset.org.uk/>

NHS Somerset ICB: [NHS Somerset ICB](#)

General Dental Council: [General Dental Council](#)

British Dental Association: [British Dental Association](#)

Primary Care Support England <https://pcse.england.nhs.uk/services/performers-lists/dental-performers>

