

Developing Standards for Dental Educators

Alison Bullock, Julie Browne, Helen Falcon and Jonathan Cowpe

The UK Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors (COPDEND) has a key part in co-ordinating postgraduate dental education and training, and aims to promote and share best practice.

Aim

To report how the COPDEND *Standards for Dental Educators* were developed and to provide an outline of their content.

Materials & Methods

1. The COPDEND Guidelines for Dental Educators were used as a starting point.
2. Information about current training for dental educators was gained from an online questionnaire (completed by over 400 dental educators and providers of training for educators) and discussions with all Postgraduate Dental Deans/Directors or their representatives.
3. Draft standards were extensively discussed by the Advisory Group, led by the COPDEND Chair.
4. During a 10 week consultation period, 83 responses were received from individuals and organisations. Revisions were made and the final standards document was launched in May 2013.

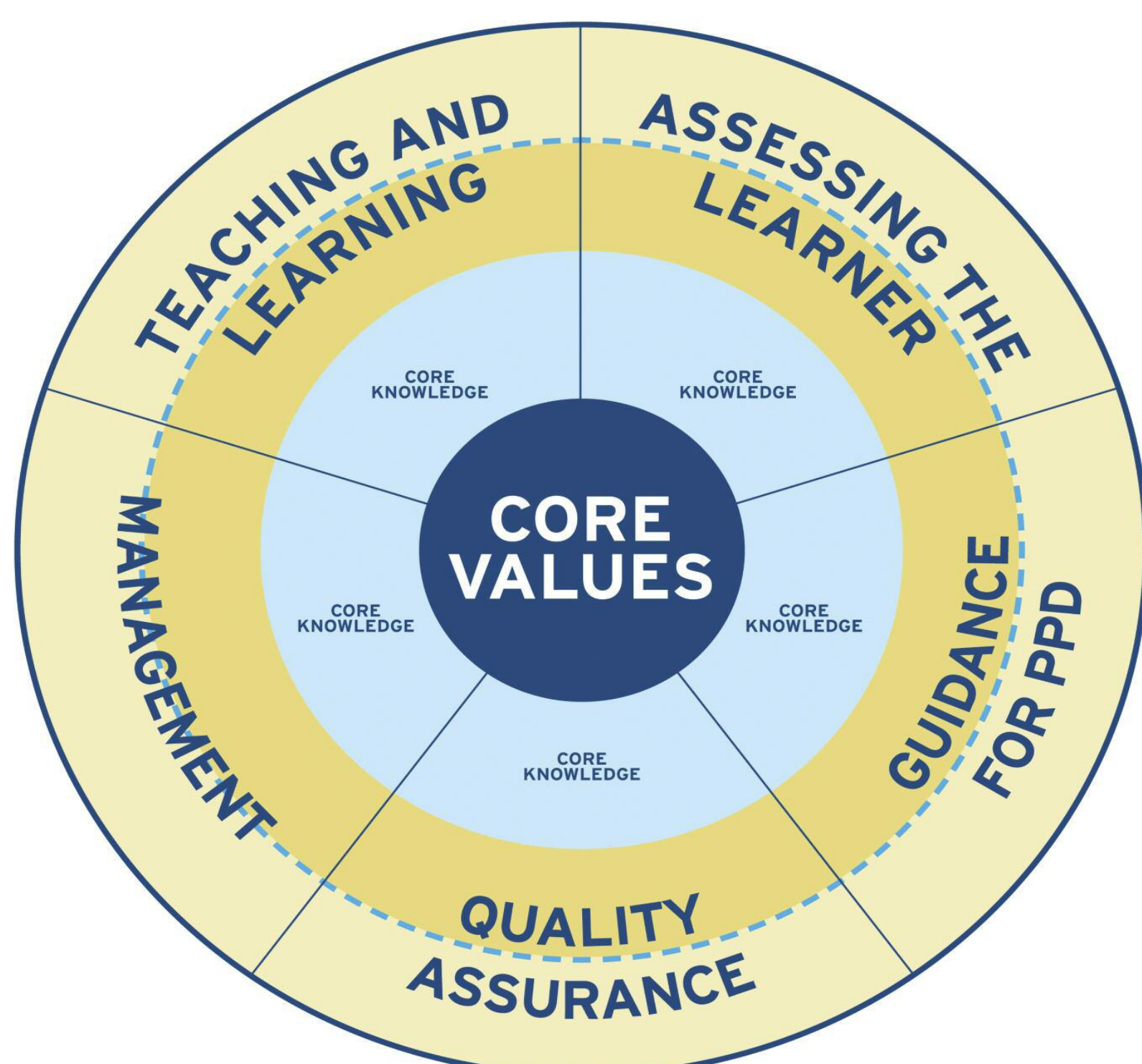
Results

The standards are divided into the *Core Values* and *five Domains*:

1. Teaching and Learning;
2. Assessing the Learner;
3. Guidance for Personal and Professional Development (PPD);
4. Quality Assurance;
5. Management.

Within each *Domain*, the *Core Knowledge* required of all dental educators is set out.

Beyond the *Core Values* and *Core Domain* specific knowledge, the standards are arranged into two levels



Not all standards are relevant to all educators

- should reflect educator's role.

Broadly - dental educators (L1) and the strategic leaders and managers of dental education (L2).

Core Values and Core Knowledge for all.

Main messages

Patient care is improved through the maintenance of high professional standards.

High quality education and training relies upon excellent educators.

Standards for Dental Educators provides a framework which supports the continuous improvement of dental educators.

Core Values: The dental educator is committed to:

1. Enhancing the care of patients through dental education
2. Modelling good professional behaviour and attitudes at all times
3. Continuously seeking to improve their educational practice
4. Learner-centred education, safeguarding learner wellbeing
5. Enabling a culture of personal and professional development
6. Actively contributing to and supporting the education of colleagues
7. Equality and diversity
8. GDC Standards promoting high quality, ethical, safe patient-centred care at all times, and seeking to maintain oral health, prevent oral disease and ensure patient dignity

Conclusions

- Standards clarify the expectations of multi-professional educators and offer:

- Greater recognition of the role,
- Greater consistency for learners,
- Shape the educational content for educators of dental teams.

Raises the profile of the profession

- Standards can assist aspiring dental educators to better understand:

- What they need to learn,
- What competences they should acquire, and
- Demonstrate to progress their own careers.

Gives new educators a framework to work within

