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Resources for education providers

# SET 3.6 – Ensuring the availability and capacity of practice-based learning

**3.6 There must be an effective process in place to ensure the availability and capacity of practice-based learning for all learners.**

## Purpose of the standard

- To ensure all learners on the programme have access to practice-based learning which meets their learning needs

## Considerations

- Education providers must provide evidence which shows the availability and capacity of practice-based learning
- For learners currently on the programme, and plan for future learners
- Consider affect on other programmes

## Evidence you could provide



Formal agreements  
of placement  
numbers with  
practice partners



Terms of reference  
for meetings where  
discussions about  
placement capacity  
take place



Team structures  
and responsibilities  
for staff involved in  
placement  
allocation



Consideration of  
the broader picture  
of practice based  
learning in the  
region

## Case study 1

**SET 3.6 There must be an effective process in place to ensure the availability and capacity of practice-based learning for all learners.**

This standard is about the processes you have in place to make sure that all learners on the programme have access to practice-based learning which meets their learning needs.

**Background:** The University of Downshire is preparing for an approval visit to a new physiotherapist programme.

**Approach:** The education provider intends to have signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) in place with various practice education providers, including NHS and private, voluntary and independent providers. The programme leader knows that there are three other education providers offering physiotherapy programmes in the region. They have arranged a meeting with the other education providers to discuss the impact the new programme may have on the region.

**Evidence:** As part of the approval documentation, the programme leader has provided draft MOUs, and the minutes of the meeting with the other education providers. The minutes mention that the other education providers believe that there is practice based learning capacity in the region.

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## Case study 1

### Questions to consider:

1. Could this approach meet the standard?
2. How could this approach be improved?
3. What other standards could be impacted by this approach?
4. How else could this standard be met?

### Things to think about:

1. When will the MOUs be signed?
2. What do the MOUs include? Are there specific numbers, times or outline structure of practice-based learning?
3. Does the range mentioned match what is required for the programme?
4. Is the meeting a one off or will it be held on a regular basis?

## Case study 2

### **SET 3.6 There must be an effective process in place to ensure the availability and capacity of practice-based learning for all learners.**

This standard is about the processes you have in place to make sure that all learners on the programme have access to practice-based learning which meets their learning needs.

**Background:** Borsetshire University has recently had their approval visit for their proposed MSc Dietetics programme. This programme was developed in conjunction with regional employers in response to workforce needs. If approved, the programme will be the only dietetics programme in the region. The HCPC set a condition on this standard when assessing the programme, requiring “evidence that demonstrates that there will be availability of practice-based learning for all learners”.

**Approach:** In the original submission, the programme team provided correspondence between the education provider and the local NHS Foundation Trust, which outlined the need for this programme. This correspondence noted that the Trust “would be happy to supply placements for the programme, as many as you need.”

**Evidence:** The conditions response includes:

- Formal agreements with the local NHS Foundation Trust to place 20 learners per year.
- Correspondence between the education provider and the Trust, noting that there is potential capacity across a range of settings needed for learners, but that these areas have not been finalised yet.
- Dates of meetings between the two groups for the next year, along with the terms of reference for the meeting, which outlines what, will be discussed, including capacity, and issues arising at, practice education providers.

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## Case study 2

### Questions to consider:

1. Could this approach meet the standard?
2. How could this approach be improved?
3. What other standards could be impacted by this approach?
4. How else could this standard be met?

### Things to think about:

1. Are the arrangements formal?
2. How will the education provider ensure that there is availability for the range required?