

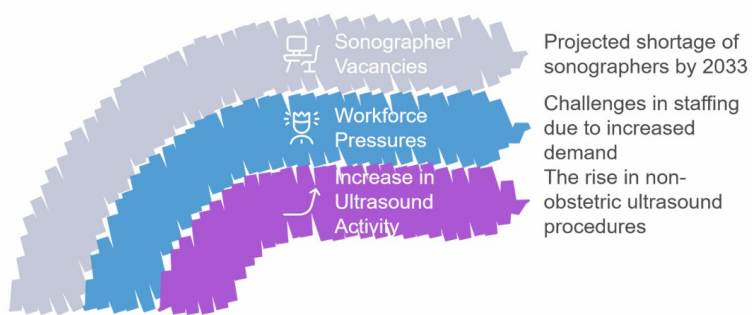


STEPS to Success: Building Sonographer Capacity Across the South West

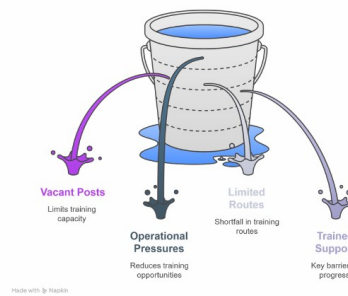
A Regional Response to Sonographer Workforce and Training Challenges in the South West

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Why is this needed?¹

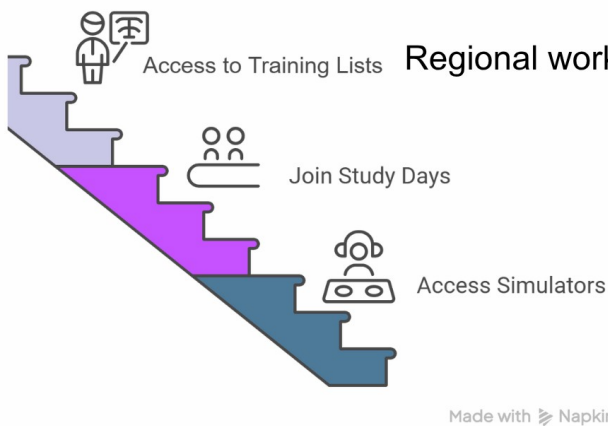


Key Barriers to Sonography Training



- Training often relies on vacant posts.
- Operational pressures and training fatigue reduce opportunities.
- Regional review found a shortfall in sonographer training routes.
- Key barriers: limited capacity and trainee support.¹

STEPS Forward



Regional workshops shaped a bespoke training programme and study days. 90% would expand training with support; 25% said a regional offer would boost capacity.¹

- **STEPS** (Sonography Training, Education and Professional Support) supports trainee sonographers alongside academic programmes.
- Access to Surgical Science ultrasound simulators and ScanTrainer® Cloud, plus webinars, study days, and 1:1/community support.
- Study days - Know Your Machine (physics) and Know Yourself (non-technical skills).

Our Programme, Their Perspective

“Yesterday was so valuable for me. So good to help me focus the mind and try to get used to getting my brain to work under pressure”

“It was a really valuable learning experience”

“Great talks with practical, relevant info. The Doppler session was a highlight”²



Ultrasound Programme	Owner	Q3 2025/26			Q4 2025/26			Q1 2026/27			Q2 2026/27			Q3 2026/27			Q4 2025/27		
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<u>GENERIC SUPPORT</u>																			
Induction Online					●	●													
Know your Machine							●	●	●					●	●				
Know Yourself											●	●							●
Mock SOPE					●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●					
Intensive Simulation					●	●	●												
<u>Non-Obstetrics</u>																			
Case Study Review/ CoP					●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●						
Reporting Webinar					●	●											●	●	
<u>Upskilling</u>																			
IOTA					●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Endometriosis									●	●									
Baby Hips						●	●												
Groins		●	●																
Lumps and Bumps				●	●										●	●			

Next STEPS

- Built on the successes of last year's training
- Shaped by feedback from participants and educators
- Refined to better meet workforce and learning needs
- Focused on practical skills, clinical relevance, and confidence-building.^{3,4}
- Designed to support sonographers across the South West

¹ NHS England – South West. Sonography Training Workshops: September 2024, November 2024, January 2025. Internal event series; NHS England – South West; 2024–2025.

² STEPS Programme Feedback. Participant and Facilitator Reflections. South West Sonography Programme; 2024. (Internal source – not publicly available)

³ NHS England. Core Competency Framework Version Two. London: NHS England; 2023. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/core-competency-framework-version-two/> [england.nhs.uk]

⁴ Society and College of Radiographers, British Medical Ultrasound Society. Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice. 7th ed. London: SoR and BMUS; 2022. Available from: <https://www.sor.org/getmedia/6d21e16f-95bb-4017-abb3-04757de4b255/SoR-and-BMUS-guidelines-2022-7th-Edv2-0>