Thomas Handley is a consultant oral and maxillofacial surgeon, at St John’s Hospital in Livingston. This is his first appointment since completing his training in 2015. Initially, he studied dentistry as his first degree in Newcastle, and it was as a second year student that his interest in the specialty was born, following a series of lectures on the scope of this exciting specialty. He realised from this point that maxillofacial surgery was a career that he wanted to pursue and took every opportunity to gain as much experience as he could during his journey through dentistry. As a newly qualified dentist he went on to complete a VT year in the same region before moving to Glasgow where he spent a couple of years as a senior house officer in a regional Maxillofacial unit. This he found rewarding, further cementing his passion and commitment to the speciality. He returned to undergraduate study to complete his second degree in medicine, at Dundee University. During this period, he continued to work in the specialty, gaining further experience as his confidence flourished. He completed his foundation medical training in Tayside before returning to Glasgow to complete his core surgical training and surgical membership exams. He subsequently took up higher surgical training, again, in the programme of his choice, the West of Scotland rotation. It was during his training that he found a new passion in head and neck surgery.

In 2014 Mr Handley was awarded the RCSED/SOMS Shanghai Head and Neck Fellowship that gave him the opportunity to complete, in his final year of training, experience at the Department of Cranio-Maxillofacial Science, Stomatology, Ninth’s People Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China. This he found invaluable and brought the additional skill mix back with him that augmented the head and neck services at his appointment. Mr Handley has never looked back at his training and and would do the same again, if given the opportunity.

Mr Handley since his appointment has worked tirelessly with many of his new trainees imparting his knowledge, skill and experience in a measured and patient manner, so typical of his personality. He always displays a professionalism that his trainees feel is something to aspire to. He has shown great leadership over the years that has inspired those who work with him to gain confidence in their own leadership, organisation and management skills. He has shown great resourcefulness that many find intuitive and creative giving solutions to complex problems. It is these attributes along with his calm demeanour why all his trainees have immense loyalty and regards for Mr Thomas Peter Handley.