NEW!! Nursing and Midwifery Blog

A new blog has started focusing specifically on news and developments that impact on nursing and midwifery education and practice in our region and nationally.

As well as being a site to comment and debate the current issues, it will also be a place where you can find out what nursing and midwifery lecturers at the University of York are doing to inform practice. The site is open to all at http://nursingandmidwifery.blogspot.co.uk.

We are also looking for practice-based colleagues to post their education and practice-related news and updates on the site. If you're interested, please email paul.galdas@york.ac.uk.

The Outstanding Practice Prize for Nursing and Midwifery Students

Do you have a wonderful student who has made a difference in your practice area? Why not nominate them for an Outstanding Practice Prize?

A nomination can be made for a prize in recognition of a student’s contribution to the enhancement of a practice environment. The nominee must have demonstrated performance beyond the standard reasonably expected for a pre-registration student and be in their final year of study.

Keep your eye on the Practice Support website and your e-mail, as criteria and the process for nomination for students completing in 2014 will be published soon.

Note: Nursing nominations can be made for students from all fields of practice in their final year.

Practice Education Conference

The Department of Health Sciences newsletter for practice experience placements, mentors and students on pre-registration nursing and midwifery programmes at the University of York.

Practice Education Conference

The planning for this year’s Practice Education Conference is underway. The theme this year is supporting service users to engage with student practice assessment. Keep an eye on the website for further details.

http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/practice-ed-support/

Continuing Professional Development

The Department of Health Sciences at the University of York will continue its extensive educational programme for registered practitioners from April 2014 with a wide range of short courses and study days suitable for Primary Care, Secondary Care, Mental Healthcare, Midwifery, Public Health and Leadership Skills Development.

Visit http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/cpd/#tab_2 to see what's coming up and how to apply.

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Inside this issue:
Practice Education Conference - P1 Mentor Updates / Pebblepad - P3
CPD - P1 Nursing & Midwifery Blog - P3
Raising Concerns - P2 Outstanding Practice Prize - P3

Not got a copy of the newsletter? Contact Pauline Johnson on pauline.johnson@york.ac.uk
Raising Concerns and Statement Writing Whilst on Practice

There may be a time when an untoward incident occurs whilst a student is on duty. This may mean that the student is required to complete a statement. The student should always contact the University for guidance and support before they write the statement.

Organisational staff should:
- Complete the incident reporting according to your policy/procedures ensuring that it is identified a student nurse was involved (risk management will then also inform the University as required)
- Ask the student to contact their University to seek guidance on the incident
- Offer support to the student in line with professional and organisation policies
- Request the student reviews the organisational policies relating to the incident
- Report the incident to the Link Lecturer or University Director of Practice Education

The student should:
- Wait to discuss the matter with your personal supervisor before writing a statement. It’s not advisable to refuse to make a statement but you can insist on the time to seek advice and assistance
- Ensure the organisation have your contact details so they can contact you at a convenient time to discuss your report/statement
- Ensure that confidential details are not discussed outside of the healthcare team (names etc) – the University can advise you on where to find information relating to this
- Ensure you are familiar with the organisational policy and procedure relating to untoward incidents

You can find information and support on writing statements on the Health Sciences website: http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/practice-ed-support/practice-concerns/

Mentor Updates

There has been some confusion recently as to what constitutes a Mentor update. The NMC state that: - Mentors must participate in an annual update to include an opportunity to meet and explore assessment and supervision issues with other mentors. And explore as a group the validity and reliability of judgements made when assessing practice in challenging circumstances.

For example this can include:-
- 2 hour updates facilitated by the University Of York
- Ward or Department updates facilitated by the Practice Learning Facilitator or Link Lecturer
- Learning Environment Manager Meetings

To keep your records updated, you must ensure that you have signed the attendance sheet, otherwise the Mentor Register Administrator will assume you did not attend. Please note the pebblepad training is not classed as a mentor update as it does not meet the above criteria.

PebblePad: Moving to a Single Workbook

In future there will be 1 rather than 2 main workbooks. The ‘Practice Experience Workbook’ and the ‘NMC outcomes and performance criteria workbook’ will be combined into one workbook titled ‘Practice Experience Workbook’. This means that all the students’ documents, including all summative assessment records (pass/fail assessments) will be together in a single workbook. This will negate the need to go back and forth between 2 workbooks in the student’s submissions area to find and cross reference documents. This change should also make it easier to check that all documentation has been completed at the end of the practice placement. The mandatory training workbook and the spoke workbooks will remain separate.

PebblePad at RCN Education Conference & Exhibition 2014

Lesley Carter and Fiona Powling from the Practice Education Support Team presented a concurrent session at the RCN Education Conference & Exhibition in Harrogate on 26th Feb 2014. The presentation was titled ‘The Lessons and Challenges of Implementing an Electronic Portfolio to a BSc(Hons) Nursing Programme’ and looked at what we have learned from our students, mentors and academic staff during the implementation of PebblePad.