



Practice Education Newsletter - Summer 2021

Enquiring minds, inspirational teaching and pioneering research

Hello and welcome to our Summer Newsletter!

With so much change in healthcare, the Department and the Practice Learning Team, this newsletter has come at a poignant time to update you on our progress, continued challenges and to once again thank you all for your ongoing support to our students.

2021 has not been an easy start to a new year and our close working relationships continue to be vital in supporting our future nurses and professional workforce. We are humbled by your dedication to our students in such a challenging and uncertain time and we appreciate all of your efforts.

This Summer Newsletter will cover the following:

- MSc programme starting in 2022
- The new Practice Learning Links
- Clinical Teaching Fellows - York Trust
- First year students in practice in June
- Midwifery programme update
- Practice Assessor Preparation (PAP) and PA updates now available
- Supporting students innovatively
- Raising concerns in practice.



New MSc Pre-registration Nursing Programme

We are currently developing a new pre-registration nursing programme which will commence its first intake in January 2022. This will be a two-year MSc aimed at people who already have an undergraduate degree and will replace our old PGDip.

The new programme will be closely aligned to our Future Nurse undergraduate programme. We are hoping to recruit 25 students to the first intake and they will start their first practice experience in April 2022.

Potential applicants will have to demonstrate that they have experience of working in a care related environment and how their undergraduate degree relates to the outcomes for the new programme. If you have any questions about the new programme please contact the programme leader, Alison Foster-Lill at alison.foster-lill@york.ac.uk.

New Practice Learning Links

There have been some changes in our Practice Learning Link (PLL) team and we are very pleased to welcome Drew Atherton and Bev Barf to the Department! Drew and Bev will work alongside myself to provide support to students and staff in practice. As you know, the PLL team provides support on all aspects of student practice queries and concerns and work alongside Practice Education Teams (where available) to offer support, guidance and updates to staff. If you require support please contact us on dohs-pll@york.ac.uk.

Drew

Hello - my name is Drew Atherton and I'm really excited to be joining the team as a practice learning link.

My background is in supporting practice education, research and cardiology but supporting students has always been my biggest professional interest.

I look forward to working with you all and please don't hesitate to contact me and the team if there's anything we can help with.



Bev

Hello I'm Bev Barf and I'm looking forward to working with you all in the future. I have been a nurse for 23 years and have worked in a variety of specialities from acute wards to public health in the community.

Throughout my nursing career I have always enjoyed the challenge of supporting students and hope to continue with this in my role at the University.



Nursing Clinical Teaching Fellows at York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

We also have the pleasure of introducing two new roles to the Department. Huge welcome to Olivia Walsh (below left) and Megan Cook (below right). Over to Olivia to explain the role:



"Recently, the University and York Teaching Hospital created a joint initiative in generating a role that works across both organisations in order to improve student experiences and strengthen the relationship with our practice partners - appointed to these roles is of course myself, Olivia Walsh, and my colleague Megan Cook."

"As graduates from the University of York MNursing programme, we are both exceptionally pleased to be



working within the department and hope to be able to draw upon our own experiences from this as well as from our background as critical care nurses.”

“Our primary role between the university and the hospital is to provide teaching and support to all students who require it, many of you have already been in contact either from your placement areas or through teaching at the university. From such conversations we have begun to implement the use of Clinical Skills Workshops within York Hospital and in our Clinical Simulation Unit, in order to help students build confidence and knowledge in completing nursing related tasks.”

“In order for us to truly improve student experiences, we are always keen to hear your views and ideas on how this can be done, so please do get in touch!”

First years due to arrive shortly

In June our first year nursing students will be out in practice. For those areas expecting a student please be aware that this is the first time these students will experience clinical areas. Due to Covid-19 and the restrictions in practice, our September 2020 students had their first placement replaced with theory and may have never experienced a practice setting previously.

These students have learnt many key theory and practice skills to help prepare them for clinical practice and they are very excited to be finally joining your team in practice. We would like to thank you for your support of these students in advance and please do remember that we are here, alongside Practice Education Teams, to support students and yourselves.

Midwifery update

The development of the [Future Midwife](#) Curriculum is continuing well. Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) approval will take place next April 2022, with the Future Programme to commence in September 2022.

We will shortly be launching a Google site which will include information and updates in relation to the curriculum development for the Future Midwife programme at the University of York. We are also planning a further consultation event in the Autumn, where we will be inviting practice partners to, dates for this will be circulated shortly.

Please contact helen.recchia@york.ac.uk for further information regarding the future curriculum at York.

Practice Assessors, Practice Supervisors and annual updates

In line with the NMC (2018) Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (SSSA), the new roles of Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor have been successfully rolled out in nearly all of our practice areas. Many thanks to all of you who have completed these sessions/online training.

For mentors needing to complete Practice Assessor Transition and for staff who have never formally assessed students, training is available on many of the Trust Learning Hubs and also via our webpages: www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/practice-ed-support/

For Nurse Practice Supervisors who wish to upskill to the role of Practice Assessor, Practice Assessor Preparation (PAP) is now available. To check if you are eligible for PAP please contact your Practice Education Teams. For Private, Independent and Voluntary Organisations (PIVOs) please contact the PLLs on dohs-pll@york.ac.uk for further information.

For Midwifery Practice Supervisors, PAP is currently being developed and we will notify you when this is available.

Annual updates are available from Practice Education Teams in Trusts and Larger CCGs. For our PIVO placements we now have remote updates for staff to access. The dates for the next training sessions are as follows:

- Friday 14th May 10am-12pm
- Monday 14th June 1pm-3pm
- Thursday 15th July 9am-11am

For PIVO practice partners please contact dohs-pll@york.ac.uk to book your place.

Supporting students innovatively

With the challenges associated with Covid-19, innovative support to students in many areas has been required and implemented successfully. Learning from this difficult time is imperative and can support students to gain deeper learning.

Practice learning activities have been utilised throughout many areas with great success. Learning activities are set by Practice Assessors and can be completed by students to achieve practice related hours. Learning activities can cover a range of theory learning to assist students to understand in more detail the care provided in your areas. Students can show further learning via case studies, reflections, posters and presentations, for example. Students must provide evidence of learning activities and these must be uploaded into their electronic pads.

Remote and tele-health service user and staff meetings can also be accessed by students where available. Many healthcare teams have seen changes in their assessments of service users, some of which will continue to be used in the future, providing an excellent learning opportunity for students.

Remember, under the SSSA (NMC, 2018), students should spend time with a range of Practice Supervisors within your team. Students should gain feedback on their professional values and evidence of proficiency skills to assist Practice Assessors in their objective assessments of students in practice and to sign off proficiencies. Students no longer need to spend 40% of their time with their allocated assessor, providing students with the opportunity to work and learn from a range of other nurses and professionals. Students must provide evidence to their PA within their electronic documentation.

If you have any additional ideas on how we can support innovative student learning in practice, we would love to hear them! Please email dohs-pll@york.ac.uk.

Raising concerns in practice - a reminder

Students raising concerns about an aspect of patient care or conduct they have witnessed or an attitude or behaviour towards them, occurs infrequently. However, there have been some cases recently where students have been asked to provide a statement in practice without University support.

If a student is required to make a statement in practice please remember to inform the Practice Learning Links (dohs-pll@york.ac.uk) so that we are able to support the student through this process.

The link to our guidelines, including the flow chart for raising concerns, is provided in this link: www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/practice-ed-support/practice-experience/practice-concerns/.

Thank you

Once again, we would like to thank you all for your continued support to all of our students in practice - nursing, midwifery and trainee nursing associates.

I would also like to thank the many areas for making contact with us to reinstate student capacity in areas where this was reduced due to Covid-19 challenges. Your commitment to student learning within your areas is very much appreciated.

For Private, Independent and Voluntary Organisations wishing to discuss student capacity, please do not hesitate to contact me on: emily.hemmings@york.ac.uk.
