Making Practice Based Learning Work

FDTL Phase 4 Project

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Overview of Session

Project Aim
Phase One - Case Study
Phase Two – Resources
Phase Three - Dissemination
Project Aim:
To make practitioners more effective at supporting & supervising students in the workplace across a range of healthcare disciplines –

Dietetics
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Physiotherapy
Radiography

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Phase One: Case Study

Identification and documentation of good practice on how practitioners are prepared for their educational role.

Inform development of learning materials for use by practitioners.

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Phase Two: Development of Materials

Design, pilot and implement resources to:

a. enhance preparation of practice supervisors.

b. meet the needs of culturally diverse health & social care teams.

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Phase Three: Dissemination

Review developed resources.

Disseminate and embed the project outcomes in a planned and comprehensive manner within and across health and social care disciplines.

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Phase One: Case Study

Case study methodology (Yin 1994) underpinned data collection methods used to map the current nature of practice education in each of the five disciplines.

Data collection methods included:
Survey questionnaire
Focus groups
Secondary documentary data
Key Themes: commonalities

All professions have statutory requirements regarding the nature of work-based learning within the curriculum.

All students are prepared for placement experiences.

All professions report to being under resourced in terms of time, staff, availability of placements.

All professional groups are required to function within the inter-professional learning and working environment.

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Key Themes: more commonalities

All professional groups are required to function within the inter-professional learning and working environment.

Inter-professional learning is curriculum rather than work-based.

All practice educators are prepared but content, length and level vary across and within professions and may not have a statutory agreement.
Key Themes: more commonalities

No formal career pathway for practice educators exists.

All practice educators are involved in formative assessment and some in summative assessment.

Learning needs of practice educators are similar across the professions.
Key Themes: differences

Management, organisation and location of placements within the curriculum and between disciplines.

Methods used to determine placement quality and standards.

Titles, roles and responsibilities given to the practice educator.

Criteria for becoming a practice educator.
Key Themes: more differences

Recognition, accreditation and standing of the practice educator and method of reward differ within and between professional groups

Volume of students; student to practice educator ratios; and models of working with students

Supervision and assessment of work based learning by practice educators

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Key Themes: more differences

Nature of preparation of practice educator - length, contents, monitoring

Support for practice educators is varied and reported to be insufficient in some instances

Divergence in student funding and reimbursement for work based learning

Multicultural issues were not fully explored

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Developing the Resources

Enhance commissioned set of learning materials

• Supporting dyslexic students in practice
• Failure to fail
• Preparing new registrants for teaching in practice
• Introduction to reflection in practice
• Facilitating learning in practice
• Managing learning environments
• Communication skills workbook
• Learning & assessing through reflection
• Skills for facilitating placement learning
• Mentoring students

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Developing the Resources

Develop portal of knowledge resources:
Learning & Teaching in Practice
Supporting Learning & Teaching in Practice
Reflection on & in Practice
Assessment in Practice
Interprofessional Learning in Practice
Diversity in Practice
Generic & specific skills resources

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The Resources

www.practicebasedlearning.org

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The Materials

Analyse usefulness of the resources by considering their relevance to practice education.

- How relevant are the materials?
- Are any irrelevant?
- Is anything extra needed?
Dissemination & Evaluation

Consider the following questions:

1. What are the most effective ways to disseminate the resources?

2. How should the resources be evaluated?
   • By whom?
   • What method(s)?
   • What should be the criteria to judge successful implementation?

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