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Peering Across the Divide : Cross School Peer Support Scheme for Students

Ann Macfadyen , HCES

Diane Sloan, NBS

Lesley Fishwick, PSS



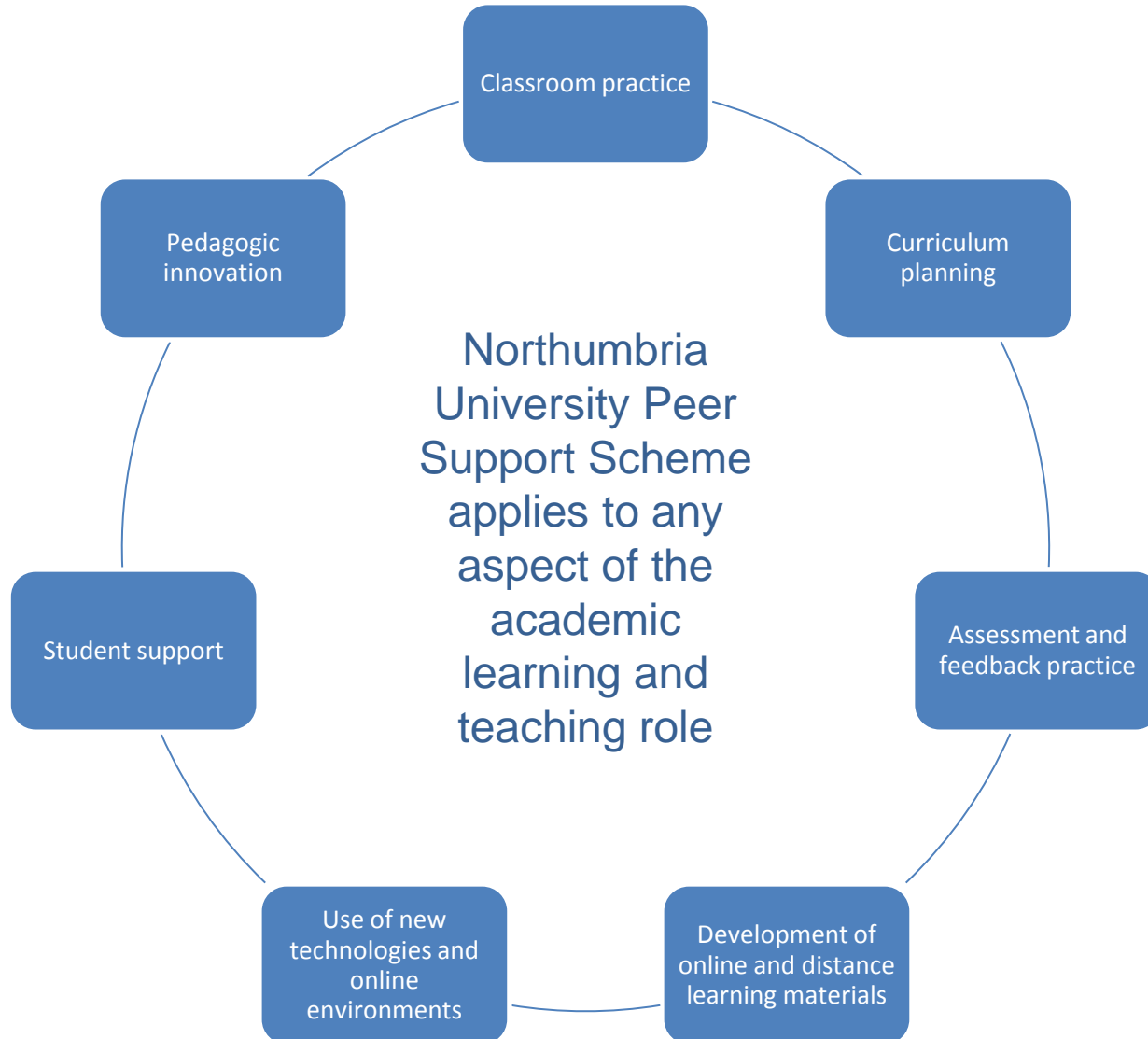
Peer Observation

- Accountability (Allen, 2002)
- Enhancing learning and teaching through reflection (Brown & Jones, 1993)

Peer Support

- A tool for *discussion and promotion* of best practice (Gosling, 2005)

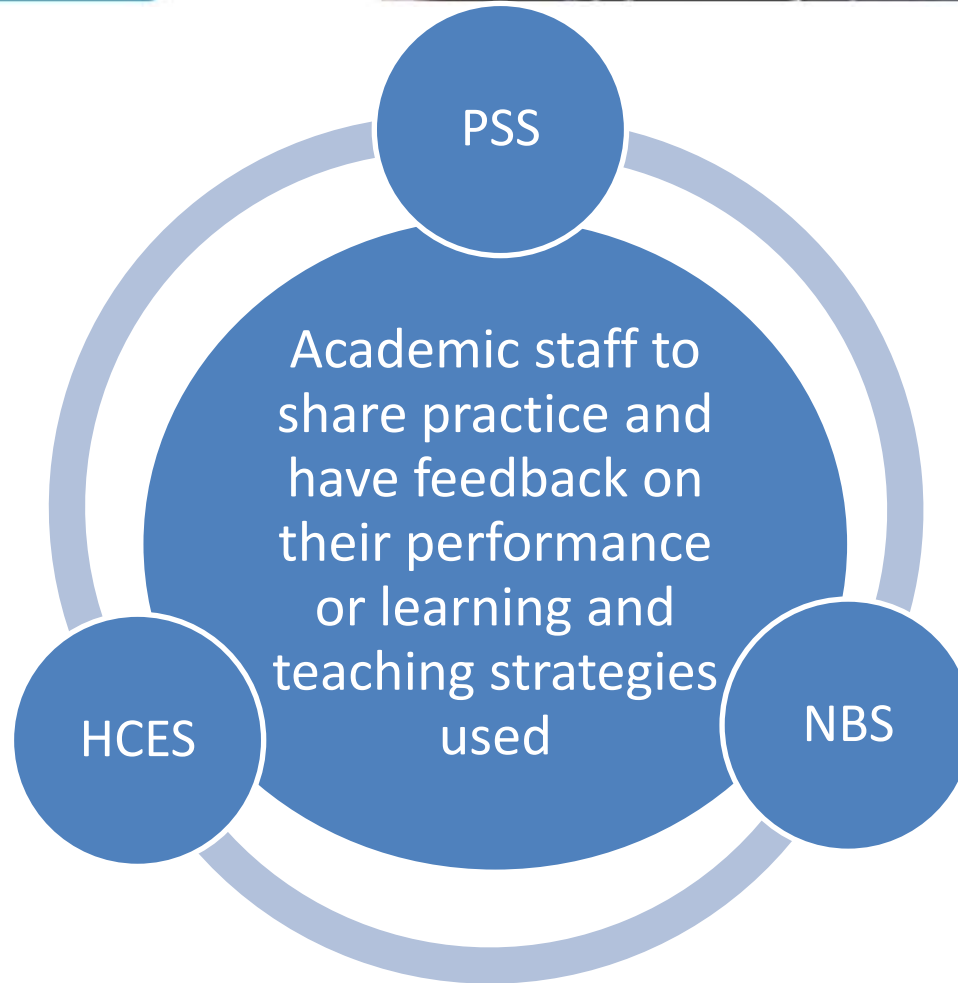
- Gosling, David. (2005) Peer Observation of Teaching. SEDA Paper 18, Staff and Educational Development Association Ltd
- Allen, L. (2002) "Consenting Adults in private" – Union and Management Perspectives on Peer Observation of Teaching, LTSN Generic Centre.
- Brown, S. , Jones, G. & Rawnsley, S. (1993) Observing Teaching. Birmingham. SEDA, Paper 79.





Intended benefits of Northumbria Peer Support Scheme

- Gain insight into different learning and teaching strategies used in another subject area
- To learn from others' experience
- To have a truly independent observer from outside their peer group
- To have more focused and productive feedback from an individual who has experience in the particular learning strategy under review



Pilot Study for Cross School Peer Support Project



Project approval granted
by relevant School
committees



Invitation e-postcard sent
to academic staff



Cross school matching
process – based on area of
support identified (e.g.
classroom teaching,
assessment and feedback)



Ethical approval for
evaluation interviews



Anonymous evaluation –
link e-mailed to
participants (with
reminders)



Participants given contact
details of their matched
partner and referred to
University peer support
guidelines



Online Evaluation

	Participants	Respondents	Response rate
HCES	8	4	50%
PSS	7	4	57%
NBS	3	3	100%



Benefits of Cross School Peer Support

- Sharing good practice with colleagues and opportunities to share ideas
- Commonalities of challenges faced
- Externality and a fresh independent perspectives



Impact

- 56% of participants identified an element in their academic practice that they would change for the next academic year as a result of participating in the scheme
- 91% of the participants said they would participate in a cross-school peer support scheme in the future



What next...?

- Repeat project in the three schools
- Apply for external funding (HEA)
- Re-evaluate
- Dissemination - internal workshop, conference, Emerge



Contact details

Ann Macfadyen , HCES

ann.macfadyen@northumbria.ac.uk

Diane Sloan, NBS

diane.sloan@northumbria.ac.uk

Lesley Fishwick, PSS

lesley.fishwick@northumbria.ac.uk



Any Questions?