



### **News from the Practice Education Team**

With Sarah Cave joining our team on 23 April we are now at full complement and can steam ahead with our various activities and plans! Not to say that we haven't been busy:

In late February we took advantage of a day of team building to 'Go Large' in our aspirations for our Implementation Strategy and Plan and, whilst we have had to face reality and reach for achievable goals, we are all still very excited by the prospect of delivering a range of support and development activities throughout the region. The Strategy will be published shortly.

A significant amount of work has been done to develop the website and you will see that it is being populated with information and PE resources, links to other sites and articles of interest. This is a constant work in progress and to this end we would love to hear from practice educators, supervisors, students, assessors, anybody with something interesting to contribute, in the form of a short blog, which we can share on the site. We hope to soon be publishing some of the videos that were made across the region-if you participated, thank you for giving up your time and views.

We also now have a small range of PE tools and resources available to LOAN. These are kept at Kingston University and are available to borrow, but must be signed in and out, so do get in touch with one of us if you would like to review them or have us bring them out to you when we visit teams.

From our meetings with partners this far we have agreed to co-facilitate two groups for Practice Educators and are making these available to all other Partners, who are perhaps unable to provide groups themselves or would like to supplement their own provision. The topics already available are *Assessing Values and Ethics in Practice* and *Dealing with Difficulties:having Courageous Conversations*. More topics are being prepared, but if you have any particular requests for specific topics please let us know.

Also 'under construction' are groups for students-any particular requests or suggestions would be welcome.

We are all using as many different means as possible to reach PEs, Supervisors and students directly, so have been popping into classrooms to meet trainees and will be finding times to come to team and management meetings, PE groups and student groups. Please let us know if you have an event coming up that we could attend, in order to introduce ourselves, publicise our work and hear from the learning frontline, what would be helpful from us.

Initial 'consultancy' conversations have also been taking place, to support placements where there are difficulties, and this is quite a bespoke service so we are open to hearing from you where you think this could be helpful.



We held a half day event for Practice Assessors in March, which was attended by 12 Practice Assessors and we will be running another full day PE Refresher event on 16 May-places are still available for this so please sign up or let Dale van Graan or Dermot Brady know that you'd like to attend. This is a useful way for Practice Educators, particularly those who have been dormant for any length of time, to refresh and update, with a view to becoming active again and retaining currency for HCPC (or SWE) registration. On that note, BASW consulted on a refreshed PEPS until the beginning of April and we contributed fully to that. It is possible that the requirements for Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be changing in the autumn, but fortunately our PE programme at KU is of such a standard that minimal changes will be required to the qualifying course or, indeed, be noticeable to trainees.

Our PE conference on 5 June is taking shape and tickets are going, almost like hot cakes! There is still capacity but places are limited so if you're deliberating, don't waste time. We have two inspiring presenters and contributions by a range of stakeholders, but we would still love students to play a more vocal role, so if any PEs or Supervisors could 'entice' their students to co-facilitate, that would be amazing! And a great development opportunity.....PCF 9 and all that!

Josie, Paul and Sarah will all be attending the National Association of Educators in Practice (NAEP) conference in May and will report back on their learning and observations from this interprofessional event, in due course. We will all be contributing to a piece of research to explore the career pathways of practice educators, so 'watch this space' to find out how you can get involved!

Placement allocation for MSW1 placements has almost been completed thanks to hard work by a vast range of critical people. We are also in the process of developing and trialling a new placement allocation procedure and strategy, which will hopefully ensure a smoother, more transparent and more equitable allocation of placements going forward.

Lastly, through the Readiness for Practice workstream we have been doing some work on developing a Student Lone Working Principles document which will find its way into the next version of the Practice Learning Handbook, to be used in conjunction with Partner agencies' own policies. Some may find policy development the less inspiring part of the role, but we all agree it is an essential component, so somebody has to do it.

On the horizon are work on developing: approaches to developing high quality placements; creative ways of increasing integrated placements and on developing Good Practice Standards of Practice Educator support.

There are many ways in which you can get involved and four of us to be contacted should you wish to discuss an idea, a concern or share a Good News Story-we do love a positive story to lift the spirits!

Dale van Graan  
PEC