



Practice Education Team Newsletter June 2019

Welcome to our second newsletter. We are now a full team of four members—our two Practice Educator Consultants are Dale van Graan and Paul Lawrence, and our two Practice Educator Development Workers are Sarah Cave and Josie Newton. It's great that we are spending an increasing amount of time in our partner agencies and developing our networks.

We have had a successful, busy few weeks meeting lots of you across South West London and Surrey. In particular our roadshows in Merton, Croydon and Sutton have been very popular. We have been giving away lots of promotional goodies at these roadshows including linen bags, pens, post-it notes and sweets and cakes! It's been great talking to people who are established in social work and those who want to become a social worker in the future. Our discussions have ranged from becoming a Practice Educator for the first time to supporting current Practice Educators; Practice Educator refresher courses; becoming an On-Site Supervisor; becoming a Practice Assessor (of trainee Practice Educators) and information about the Kingston University Practice Education modules. Additionally we have had conversations with you about continuing professional development, career coaching (CPD/career clinics), the ASYE and the various routes to becoming social work qualified. Finally we were able to show you some of the resources/tools you can loan from us to support you in your practice education and supervision of students, NQSWs and others. We will be visiting Achieving for Children in Twickenham and Kingston, and Kingston Adult Social Care in the next few weeks.

We delivered a very well received 'Celebrating Practice Education' conference at Kingston University on 5 June when we had over 100 attendees. Our key note speakers were very engaging and helped us reflect on our varying role(s) in practice education. Siobahn MacLean enlightened us about her 'SHARE Model' (Seeing, Hearing, Action, Reading, Evaluation), with more details about this in her book *'Share: A New Model for Social Work'*. Jo Finch encouraged us to be courageous and told us some anecdotes about dealing with difficulties. She promoted her book *'Supporting Struggling Students on Placement'* and the SHARE book previously mentioned, which she co-authored with Siobhan Maclean and Prospera Tadam. The workshops were well attended, with these being facilitated by partner stakeholder representatives. Student voices were also represented in poster displays. (There is some qualitative feedback and photos under New Posts on website).

Speaking about conferences, three of our team attended the NAEP (National Association of Educators in Practice) conference entitled 'Adapting Practice Education for Learners of the Future' in early May. This conference provided a good opportunity for our team to learn about and from practice educators in other settings and across disciplines, particularly in various health settings. The workshops on 'Partnership working between placement and education providers' and 'Evaluation of student learning in diverse contexts and settings' were particularly engaging. Josie also attended an inspiring BASW conference in May which she used to inform a PA workshop.



We would like to take this opportunity to publicise the NOPT (National Organisation of Practice Teachers) annual conference being held at the University of Portsmouth on 25 June. This conference will focus on BASW's update on proposed changes following the PEPS refresh and Michael Doel will be giving a keynote speech entitled 'Social Work in 40 Objects'. A highly recommended conference with more details at

https://twitter.com/NOPTtw/status/1123326708025843713?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwterm%5Eprofile%3ANOPTtw%7Ctwcon%5Etimelinechrome&ref_url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nopt.org%2F

We continue to develop our website www.developingtogetherswtp.org.uk For example the 'Events' dropdown gives details of up and coming events such as the Twilight session: Preparation for Practice on 19 June and a 'Caring Dads' masterclass on 26 June. On our 'Practice Education' dropdown we have lots of new resources about practice education and about national social work developments such as Social Work England, SCIE and Research in Practice (RIP). Additionally we are continually adding to our library of books and other materials we can loan out to Practice Educators in our partner agencies. For example, we have 'Social Work Theory Cards' (Siobahn Maclean), 'Reflective Practice Cards' (Siobahn Maclean), 'Supporting Struggling Students on Placement' (Jo Finch), 'Social Work Theory' (Siobahn Maclean & Rob Harrison) and 'Innovations in Practice Learning' (Ed by Sue Taplin, Senior Lecturer at Kingston University). Contact any member of our team if you would like to borrow any of our physical resources.

A big thanks to Josie for writing the first blog for our website. Josie wrote about mental health awareness - her passion for working in this sector and how individuals should 'reach out' for help when they need it. We welcome blogs from anyone who has anything interesting to share about practice education or social work more generally.

There was lots of healthy and open discussion about social work student placements at our first Placement Allocation Day in early June. We had a good turnout of partners and managed to progress and plan for first and final placements for BA students. We explored, developed and agreed issues related to placement demand and capacity, the allocation process and support for agencies and practice educators.

Sarah and Josie delivered a meaningful PE refresher event on 16 May. Although the group was small in number the session was very well received and enabled Practice Educators to update their knowledge of the PEPS requirements and identify their own learning needs going forward, in order to retain currency.

We continue to explore how we can best support independent Practice Educators and Assessors, and those moving into these roles, including a mentoring model for experienced PEs moving into assessing trainees. Please contact us if you want to share any views on these topics.

It's been good for our team to meet with the 30 Teaching Consultants within the Partnership. We have discussed the role of our team and the differences between the roles of the Practice Educator Consultant and Practice Educator Development Worker. We set our discussion against the backdrop of the formation of the Partnership and its intents to March 2020.

Kingston University Professor Jane Lindsay (and co-researcher Hilary Tompsett) carried out research in 1998 on the 'Careers of Practice Teachers in the London and South East Region' (CCETSW). Dermot Brady (Senior Lecturer, KU) will soon be working with the PE team to update this research; the proposal is currently being reviewed by the KU Ethics Committee, with the hope to 'go live' in July.

Dale has developed a Supervisor Programme for non SW qualified staff in our partner agency Welcare. This will be live from September and is now enabling the development of a programme for SW qualified staff, so watch this space for more news on this.

Finally, Louise Jones (Principal Social Worker, Wandsworth Children Services) has created a great debate on Twitter about #wellbeingwednesday . Louise is encouraging us to take care of ourselves and look after our well-being as professionals and as individuals. Watch out for Sue Lansley's weekly Wednesday self-care tip tweet!

So, we continue to move enthusiastically and energetically forward in the diverse areas of social work practice education and support. It has been quiet from Josie this week as she has some time off and next week it is Paul's turn, so please bear with us as we prepare for more roadshows and meetings. We look forward to seeing familiar and new faces in the month ahead.