



DEVELOPING TOGETHER

SOCIAL WORK TEACHING PARTNERSHIP

Practice Education Team Newsletter

October 2019



Hello to all our colleagues in the partnership!

Well, let's all agree that autumn is definitely with us! Drops in temperature, changes in the colours and presence of the leaves, dark evenings and some spooky Halloween decorations suggests that we truly have to say farewell to summer.

Apart from more very busy workshops, Day 2 of both the Supervisor Programmes and Day 1 of the non social work Supervisor Programme in October has also been a rewarding month for us as individuals and a team. We have been afforded opportunities to invest in our own continuing professional development, and hopefully that means we bring it back into our work with all of you.

Josie and Dale attended the GAPS (Group for the Advancement of Psychodynamics and Psychotherapy in Social Work) conference in Sheffield, entitled 'Social Work and Trauma – Context, Theory and Relationship-Based Practice'. If these approaches are of interest we would highly recommend joining this group - they provide really thought-provoking (and reasonably priced) conferences and workshops throughout the year and access to a quarterly journal. They can be found at <https://www.gaps.org.uk/about/>. In fact, one of their next workshops is on 'Difficult Conversations on the Frontline-managing the tensions between care and control'. If anyone can get to Edinburgh we are sure it would be worthwhile, but it is assuring to see that they are also directly addressing the challenges of managing difficult conversations, albeit in a different context, but in a similar vein to our workshop on that challenge in practice learning. Despite the wet and grey weather to be expected in Sheffield, the atmosphere was certainly warm and friendly! For Dale, the most inspiring presentation of the day was by Kati Taunt, a social worker working primarily with children who have experienced multiple traumas, but also other professionals and carers working with them in schools, residential care and other settings. Kati's



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passion was infectious and her insights and understanding of her subject area phenomenal. This was followed by some interactive activities including role plays. So we should be assuring our students that we are never 'too experienced' to stop learning through simulation!

Dale came away from the GAPS conference with a developed understanding and greater motivation to ensure she embeds the necessary approach of 'Trauma Informed Practice' as a frontline practitioner but equally, share the need to "being curious about trauma" in her role as Practice Educator and Practice Assessor within the Teaching Partnership. Conference participants motivated Dale to buy "The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog" by Bruce D.Perry and Maia Szalavitz. The book seeks to explain how trauma affects a child's mind. My learning from the fabulous conference - we can all be affected by trauma, and with understanding 'how', we can then seek to 'heal'.



Josie, Sarah and Paul all attended Community Care Live in London on 15-16 October and these are some of Josie and Paul's thoughts:

Josie says: There's nothing like getting out of the office, with a focus on having the space and time to explore areas of interest that further develops understanding and practice is there?! This month I was lucky enough to attend two, very different but equally thought-provoking conferences - 'GAPS' National Conference 2019: Social Work and Trauma - Context, Theory and Relationship-Based Practice; and Community Care Live 2019. In relation to Community Care Live, as well as attending an interesting and engaging session on understanding, and breaking down the barriers that exist in organisations in creating learning cultures, I excitedly went along to listen to our friends, Sass Boucher and Kate Collier of 'SelfCare Psychology' (@SelfCarePsy). Their session couldn't have been any clearer! We need to be looking after ourselves and ensure we are 'Supporting Social Workers with Self-Care' #WellbeingWednesday and beyond.....!

Paul attended Community Care Live and says it was a good place to not only catch up the latest national social work happenings but it was also a good event to network



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with some of our partners in the teaching partnership who had stands on the exhibition floor. It was good to have discussions with Social Work England about social worker registration transferring to them from the HCPC on 2 December and about their plans for social worker 'Continuing Professional Development'. The 'What Works for Children's Social Care' stand was informative, giving good summaries of the social work research and other projects they are currently involved in - you can sign up for their newsletters at <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/>. Like Josie, Paul also attended the session led by Community Care Inform about 'Creating a Learning Culture' with one of the key messages that this best happens if the change is actively supported by senior managers and is systemic, at all levels of the organisation.

Sarah has already written a blog about her reflections on this event, but she was the only team member able to attend the BASW conference and so has reported back:

The very early start to get to Leeds for the BASW conference on 18th October was well worth it. With the theme of the conference being 'Relationships', the first two sessions were led by individuals with lived experience of services. These sessions were very powerful and a keen reminder for social workers not to lose their focus on the importance of relationships when experiencing the huge pressures they are under to get their numerous assessments completed. There was a wide variety of workshops in the afternoon, and a number of people I spoke to, had the same dilemma as me - which to go to. A very thought provoking and useful day - thanks BASW!

So, while we are talking all things professional development, it is a good time to remind you to please complete our survey on the careers of Practice Educators. It will take about 20 minutes but is really important and so long overdue. Please click the link below to access the survey.

<https://kingston.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/careers-of-practice-educators>

We only have a few Practice Educator workshops planned for November, but there are many other events happening - like the [visit by Colum Conway, Chief Exec of Social Work England to Kingston University on 11 November](#) and the [play about working with people with dementia on 1 November, 'Grandma Remember Me'](#).

On the morning of 27 November there is the launch of the refreshed PEPS at Kingston University. Book your place [here](#). At this event we will be sharing some teaching resources and having a little competition, to find and disseminate some



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really good examples of teaching activities, which you use or have designed. We KNOW they are out there and may approach some of you personally to request consent to share yours, but we are inviting you all to submit to us any examples of teaching activities you have designed and used. We will make them available on the day for people to review and discuss and then vote for the 'best' in different categories. So please spread the word.....

Our final year BA students should all be settled into their final placements by now and the next cohort of first placement students about to launch into theirs. It is often a very exciting but also anxiety provoking time for them, and possibly also for our trainee Practice Educators, so please all be kind to each other. Mostly, it all works out in the end.

And finally....

As usual we want to ensure you know how to find out more.

Please do visit our website: www.developingtogetherswtp.org.uk

Follow us on twitter: [@DevelopT_SWTP](https://twitter.com/DevelopT_SWTP)

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THANK YOU, AND SEE YOU SOON!

