



DEVELOPING TOGETHER

SOCIAL WORK TEACHING PARTNERSHIP

Ramblings of TP PET

New year, new beginnings, new challenges.....



It's been a while and hasn't the world changed? We began drafting this a few weeks ago, when the word Corona was associated with perhaps more pleasurable activities than it is now. These are such extraordinary times and we are all being asked to dig much deeper than we usually do, in order to look after vulnerable people, our families and ourselves. Some of the enforced isolation and physical distancing may create opportunities to catch up with tasks or activities that we can otherwise rarely prioritise and so we hope that, if you're reading this, you are in that situation and can take a breather for 10 minutes. That's all it will take to read the latest newsletter from the PET.

Since January we have been working as a trio, as Paul took on his new role in Croydon Children's Services. Sarah, Josie and Dale have continued to facilitate Practice Educator/Onsite Supervisor workshops across the Partnership, within individual agencies and at generic sites. Workshops for students were also provided in some agencies, covering various subjects requested by them, including 'Managing your time and wellbeing' and 'Having difficult conversations' which were well received!

We carried out more developmental work on our 'PCF Toolkit' which anyone can access on the Developing Together [website](#). There are now a number of tools and exercises for use with students, to enable learning and to assist in assessing evidence required to demonstrate capability across the PCF. This is a work in progress so please do have a look from time to time and also share with us any resources you have developed yourself or that you find particularly helpful in your role supporting and assessing learning and development.

More recently, and following a lively and helpful consultation event in January, the team has been working on developing a planned programme of support for NQSWs



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undertaking the ASYE, especially those who are preparing for the [Skills for Care ASYE to NAAS Pathway programme pilot](#), and beyond, into the Early Professional Development stages of their careers. So, going forward, our spotlight is broadening from Practice Education to Practice more generally, particularly early career development and, consequently the title of the remaining team members has changed to Practice Consultant. Supporting NQSWs further was the recent training day facilitated by the fantastic Siobhan Maclean, which was extremely well received by those who attended. Attendance at many workshops and training events had been disappointingly low in recent weeks (pre virus impact), so more work will be done to understand the factors which are impacting on projected attendance and what steps can be taken to address this. Also, speaking of Siobhan Maclean, she is making the most of her time in isolation and is working on a fantastic catalogue of YouTube videos to keep people connected with their learning; you can subscribe to her channel [here](#).

Josie and Sarah have also been extremely busy working as off site PEs for students on both programmes and they have also been assessing trainee PEs, so extending their skills in many directions. In addition, we have all appreciated and benefited from opportunities to attend learning events for our own development. Josie attended 'Encouraging the voice of the child during engagement and assessment' training with AfC which has assisted in her role as PE, but was particularly helpful given her practice background in adult mental health services.

Josie and Dale were invited to co-facilitate a development day with colleagues at Welcare and this was a fantastic opportunity to get to know colleagues in the voluntary sector and explore values-based practice in a multidisciplinary context. What a warm and welcoming atmosphere we experienced!

Additionally, we were absolutely thrilled to have had another opportunity to learn from Kati Taunt about Trauma-Informed Practice. This whole day event was so inspiring and moving, I am sure she had an immediate impact on the practice of every person in the room. We have identified 15 July as a date to run this event again, however given the current circumstances we are having to 'play this by ear'!

Speaking of the current circumstances, unfortunately we have seen the University's Annual Social Work and Social Care Conference and the Practice Education Conference postponed for the foreseeable future, as is the case with a number of other events, but I have no doubt that we'll be more than ready for them when they can be rescheduled.

The PET will be changing format once again, as we near the end of the initial funding period. From 1 April the Partnership Team will include Sarah and Josie as Practice Consultants, Sue and Libbi in their current posts as Social Work Lead and



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Project Lead respectively, and Dale will be returning to her substantive post at KU, but continuing with some of the work she started with the PET. So, new iterations continue to build on the progress we have made to date, and on existing relationships and strengths. In these most challenging of times, we'll continue to build our partnership. Take care of yourselves, your loved ones and each other!