

Developing an online distance learning course for Speech and Language Therapy Practice Educators

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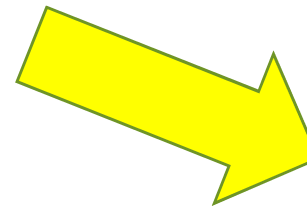
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Varying emotions....



Background: Supporting Practice Placements

- ❖ Pre-registration speech & language therapy education
- ❖ New funding arrangements from 2017 > opportunity for expansion
- ❖ 3 year BSc (40-50 students) + (from Sept 2019) 2 year MSc (10-20 students)
- ❖ Critical to success:
 - ❖ Placement capacity > regional (& national) shortfall ongoing issue
 - ❖ Placement quality > regulated by HCPC + critical aspect of student experience
 - ❖ Partnership working with placement providers



Placement educator training – face to face delivery

Aims:

- Develop clinical education skills of practice educators
- Familiarise with LBU process & paperwork
- Develop enthusiasm for students & seeing them as an asset
- Networking

Delivery:

- Attend initial face to face full day training at LBU
- Then every 3 years, attend half day refresher training

Challenges:

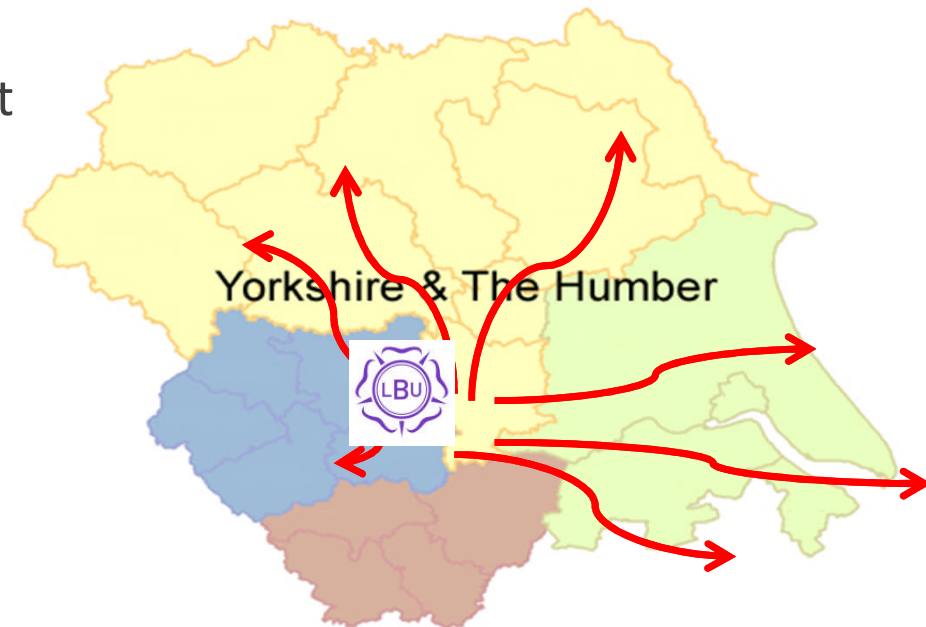
- Ability to access the training
- Release from clinical commitments to attend the training
- Distance – some SLTs in North Lincs and Humber
- Increasing diversity of educators – NHS and independent settings





Rationale for the DL course

- ❖ Flexible, on-line access across the region
- ❖ Educators keen
- ❖ Encourage more educators & build placement capacity
- ❖ Extended life & sustainability





Funding for the DL programme

❖ Funded by Health Education England (Yorkshire & Humber)

❖ 'Serendipitous' timing.....



❖ Rationale:

❖ Develop practice learning opportunities > future workforce

❖ Contribute to quality enhancement of placements



Aims & Objectives

Aims

To develop and implement and evaluate a reusable distance learning resource for practice educators

Objectives

Scoping of Practice Educator Learning Requirements (July 2017 – October 2017) Review of current PE provision and feedback; consultation with Practice Educators; review of relevant literature and resources.

Development of Distance Learning Course (October 2017 – August 2018). In collaboration with Leeds Beckett Distance Learning Unit, design and build DL course for Practice Educators.

Implementation & evaluation (September 2018 – September 2019) Launch of DL provision. Collection and evaluation of feedback to inform on-going updates



The process

- ❖ Liaison with the Distance Learning team re 'the build'
- ❖ Developing the content
 - ❖ 8 units
 - ❖ Quizzes
 - ❖ Discussion board
 - ❖ New educators (whole day) and refresher (half day) training
- ❖ Placement admin team support



The units

1. The Student's perspective
2. How to prepare for having a student
3. Learning approaches
4. Feedback
5. Evidence based practice
6. Grading
7. Supporting students with disabilities
8. Clinical Scenarios



Making it appealing

- ❖ Actors
 - ❖ Videos
 - ❖ Voice overs
- ❖ Animations
- ❖ Activities
- ❖ Clinical application / example
- ❖ Workbook style



How it works

- ❖ University login from Placement education team
- ❖ Complete the module, quiz at the end of each unit
- ❖ Complete evaluation at the end
- ❖ 3 month window to complete
- ❖ Quarterly launch of new cohort
- ❖ Evaluation triggers certificate
- ❖ Can access the units as long as remain registered with us as an educator
(associate staff status)



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The first cohort

- ❖ 37 educators enrolled since October 2018
- ❖ 24 NHS, 13 independent settings
- ❖ 19 completed
- ❖ 15 evaluations to date

Likert scale 1 = strongly agree, 5 = Strongly disagree	Number of people who indicated (n = 15)				
PARAMETER	1	2	3	4	5
The objectives were clear	13	2			
The course content covered what I needed	13	2			
I can apply the information	13	2			
The resources were helpful	12	3			
The course was presented clearly	12	3			
The course was informative	3	12			
The course was at an appropriate level	8	7			
The admin process to access the course was easy	7	4	3	1	
The timing to complete was sufficient	8	5	2		
The interactive activities were useful	10	5			
I was satisfied with the course	10	5			



Likert scale 1 = EXCELLENT, 5 = POOR	Number of people who indicated (n = 15)				
EVALUATION OF EACH UNIT	1	2	3	4	5
The Student's perspective	12	3			
How to prepare for having a student	11	3			
Learning approaches	11	3	1		
Feedback	14	1			
Evidence based practice	8	7			
Grading	11	2	1		
Supporting students with disabilities	12	3			
Clinical Scenarios	8	7			

Feedback to date

- ❖ “I found the distance learning course very useful with lots of activities to complete along the way and would also like to have access to the module when I have my next student”
- ❖ “Content great, thorough and thought provoking”
- ❖ “would like to see responses from other SLT educators to gain different perspectives”



Future

- ❖ Additional units (e.g. 'students as assets')
- ❖ Review / add scenarios
- ❖ On-line networking opportunities via the platform
- ❖ Currently adapting for the new BSc and MSc course – Sept 19