

# Practice-based Learning Recovery in the Allied Health Professions: Modern, Diverse and Sustainable



**Authors:** Ailidh Hunter, Gail Nash, Joanne Gibson, Karin Massie, Pete Glover, Helen McFarlane, Lorna Darrie, Katy Styles, NHS Education for Scotland

**Aim:** To identify and apply examples of best practice that can be supported and developed to offer practice-based learning in a modern, diverse, and sustainable way.

## Background

The onset of COVID-19 saw significant disruption to Allied Health Profession (AHP) Practice-based Learning (PrBL) across Scotland which exacerbated an already fragile system. The Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) identified PrBL deficit across AHP programmes caused by the pause of placements for most professions. The subsequent reduced capacity risked delayed graduation and workforce supply, increasing pressure on services.

In April 2021, Scottish Government funding to NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the HEIs provided a timely opportunity to develop projects and infrastructure to support recovery of and build capacity for AHP PrBL. NES recruited 14 AHP Practice Education Lead (PEL) posts (7.2 whole-time equivalent).

## Results



**Increased capacity: 14,000 hours of new AHP PrBL placement opportunities created and utilised**



**Over 50 new AHP PrBL training opportunities**



**Development of Networks, drop-in clinics, and support for practice educators**



**Over 30 new AHP PrBL resources**

Evaluation was undertaken via focus group discussions and a QuestBack survey.

## Methodology

12 specific projects undertaken from September 2021 to March 2023 (10 uni-professional, 1 AHP infrastructure, 1 AHP cross sector project).



Each project lead engaged with stakeholders, undertook an in-depth scope, identified deliverables and change ideas, tested ideas and measured impact.

**Details of each project can be accessed here:**

<https://my.ltb.io/index.html#/showcase/nes-ahp-practice-education>

## AHP PrBL Recovery



## Conclusion

There continues to be the need for an ongoing focus on AHP PrBL and collaborative working is key to provide high quality opportunities across sectors that are modern, diverse, and sustainable. There is strength in developing and utilising different models and methods of delivery, support networks and communities, and by increasing access to resources and training opportunities. There has been collaboration on a scale not seen before, and we are starting to see a change in culture vital in supporting our future AHP colleagues to develop the skills required to enter the workforce in an ever-changing landscape.

**The workstream report and other supporting resources can be accessed here:** <https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/our-work/ahp-practice-based-learning-recovery/>

For further information: email [Ailidh.hunter@nhs.scot](mailto:Ailidh.hunter@nhs.scot) or [AHP.Practice.Ed@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:AHP.Practice.Ed@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

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