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Aims

To scope and evaluate the current and additional support that could be offered by the GOSH AHP Education Team to practice educators and students on placement at GOSH.

References:

NHS England (2022), *The AHP Strategy for England: AHP Deliver*, available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/allied-health-professions-strategy-for-england-ahps-deliver.pdf> (last accessed 11.02.26)
NHS England (2024), *AHP Fair Share – Calculations / Recommendations Update 2024*, available at: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Fair%20Share%20Update%202024.pdf> (last accessed: 11.02.26)

Background

The GOSH AHP Education team offers support to 9 AHP departments for student placements including:

- Processing honorary student contracts
- Onboarding
- Support with placement challenges
- Hybrid leadership placements with clinical teams
- Student Data Collection Tool submission
- Student supervision training & induction for student coordinators
- Facilitated simulation sessions
- Student support forums

With increasing numbers of AHP student course places (NHS England 2022) and Capital AHP Fair Share Targets (2024), AHP teams need to be supported to be able to continue to take on student placements. It is therefore important to ensure that the service offered by the AHP Education Team meets the needs of the GOSH AHP educators facilitating student placements.

Results

Summary of themes from feedback meetings:

- Education Team support was perceived to be “helpful”.
- **Roll-out of student induction programme:** 7 out of 9 AHP teams felt this would be beneficial and keen for general topics to be covered.
- **AHP student forum sessions:** schedules not fitting in with student placement timetables/ clinical caseloads/ clinic structures.
- **AHP Education Team facilitated learner sessions:** generic topics would be beneficial but different days/times and lengths of sessions suggested by coordinators.
- **Additional support sessions for educators/ students:** need to increase awareness of support with day-to-day running of placements e.g. appropriate reasonable adjustments and improving perceptions and attitudes towards placements as well as profession-specific challenges.

Methods

A series of 8 questions devised to guide conversations covering the following topics:

- Awareness and opinion on the current support offered.
- Scoping for interest in a general AHP Student Induction programme.
- Interest in facilitated learning sessions delivered by AHP Education Team.
- End-of-placement data collection/ placement admin support.
- Additional support teams would like from the AHP Education Team.

The student coordinators across 9 AHP Departments were contacted to arrange a one hour meeting (face-to-face or virtually via Microsoft Teams).

AHP Practice Educator met with coordinator and meeting notes made with consent on the answers to the questions for each profession.

Documented meetings were scanned for theme frequency and collated to produce a summary of outcomes and recommendations to present to Education Team for the review of the support offered.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were generated based on the feedback:

- **General AHP Student Induction-** programme design to suit all AHP teams and ensuring a safe learning environment. To take into consideration preferences for this to be in-line with placement starting days and ensure the content does not duplicate local induction content.
- **AHP Student Forum:** To explore alternative timings, formats and topics to improve engagement across all professions, taking into consideration different placement structures.
- **Facilitated learner Sessions:** Generic topics that would benefit multiple professions. Consider offering at different times/ days to accommodate varying team capacities but will require further discussion with specific teams.
- Further **communication of support** that can be offered by the Education Team to ensure educators are asking for support with concerns or challenges with student placements when needed.
- Continue discussions with AHP teams regarding support to ensure that profession-specific issues also recognised and supported.