

Design and Evaluation of a Physiotherapy Funded Places Scheme

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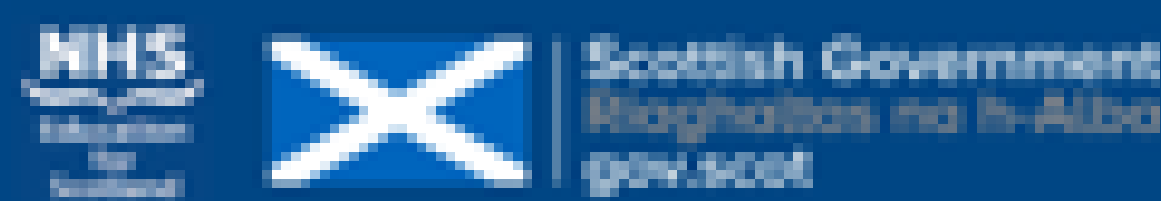
Aim: To develop, deliver, and evaluate a funded places scheme in collaboration with key stakeholders. The scheme supports the the Scottish Government commitment to create 225 more Advanced Musculo-Skeletal (MSK) Practitioners in Primary Care, by increasing MSc training places for the Physiotherapy workforce.

Background

The NHS Scotland Physiotherapy Funded Places Scheme was designed to deliver increased training places in collaboration with NHS Boards and Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) through the most direct entry route – the two-year MSc (Pre-Registration) programme at Edinburgh Napier, Glasgow Caledonian, Queen Margaret University and Robert Gordon University Aberdeen.

The scheme is funded by the Scottish Government and supports Scottish domicile students who fully intend to develop their future career within NHS Scotland.

Opening in September 2021, funded places have been awarded over the past three years via a competitive interview process.



Results

142 funded places allocated across the first three years of the scheme. 100% of the first year's students have progressed through their programme to graduation.



Stakeholder engagement and surveys have identified lessons learned and developments that have been implemented.



Impact data has been captured through stakeholder evaluation, in-depth interviews, and workforce tracking. Powerful qualitative impact



is captured within this [video](#).

Methodology

Following agreement of the key principles and inclusion criteria, a range of supporting resources were developed. This includes an online application form, advert, application and interview guidance. A dedicated email mailbox was set up to coordinate the process and support those administering and applying to the scheme; and a webpage on Turas was designed to share key information. The scheme has been promoted through AHP networks, the Turas page, the HEI websites, and on social media.

An information sharing agreement was signed by all HEIs to allow indexing of students awarded a funded place and monitoring of progression through the programme.

Collaborative working with a range of stakeholders through the formation of a physiotherapy funded places scheme working group and regular engagement surveys has allowed development of the scheme processes and resources as part of a continuous improvement cycle.

NHS Scotland Physiotherapy Funded Places Scheme

Conclusion

The NHS Scotland Physiotherapy Funded Places Scheme is the first funding scheme of its kind within the allied health professions in Scotland. There is significant learning from the design, development, and evaluation of the scheme that can inform practice and the development of funding schemes that is applicable across professions. This includes the importance of:

- planning and development of clear guidance to support application and allocation of funded places
- having a dedicated point of contact and information such as an email mailbox and webpage
- considering a range of opportunities to promote the scheme
- collaboration with a range of stakeholders including applicants to ensure necessary updates are made for continuous improvement

For further information: email nes.nhsqa@nhs.scot

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