

AHP PrBL Recovery



Dietetics 2023

AHP Practice-based Learning (PrBL) Recovery: Dietetics 2023

Situation / Background

The purpose of the project was to support the restoration of PrBL capacity which had been impacted by the cessation of placements during the early stages of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Purpose

To build on and support further development of dietetic PrBL opportunities across Scotland.

In Scope:

- In scope for the purposes of this project was any work around PrBL that could be influenced within the limited time frame of the project and which was able to be influenced by board practice educators (PEs) or the Dietetics Practice Education Lead (PEL).

Out of scope:

- Student funding, accommodation issues, the current allocation system and the student portfolio.

Task

Stakeholder Group

PELs from every health board in Scotland, Higher Education Institute (HEI) representatives from those delivering pre-registration dietetic training in Scotland, and the British Dietetics Association (BDA) Policy officer for Scotland were invited to attend the initial stakeholder meeting in April 2022. NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and board PELs were also invited to provide perspective from their understanding of the project. In

addition, the project lead attended and gave presentations at the Scottish Dietetic Leaders Group and the BDA Scottish Board and invited attendees from these groups. Attendees were asked to invite anyone with an interest in dietetic PrBL, to encourage diversity of voices and opinions.

Scoping

- A survey of dietetic PEs was carried out
- Stakeholder discussions
- Scoping of available resources and clarification of placement allocation figures

Key findings

Responses from the dietetic PE questionnaire (n=71 responses) suggested that:

- PEs felt supported in their role by managers and colleagues and were confident in supporting students.
- For future development, respondents suggested that more profession specific training would be welcome, more help with supporting underperforming students, and there was a desire for learning around different placement models.

The stakeholder group were positive about aspects of dietetic PrBL. These were:

- Digital solutions such as NHS NearMe have been well used and are now embedded in systems, to the benefit of students, patients, and dietetic services.
- Flexibility in placement delivery has been well received.
- The reinstatement of 12-week placements for Placements B and C was felt to be positive.
- Students have been engaged and motivated.
- There has been more collegiate working and support for PEs from HEIs.
- There was recognition that there is still a need to increase capacity, and that students could be better prepared for the challenge of working with different teams or individuals.

Change ideas for addressing these issues were:

- Support with peer-assisted learning (PAL) implementation and troubleshooting
- Exploration of cross / third sector placements to increase capacity
- Support to develop digital resources in specialist areas
- Support for reviewing PrBL timetables/structure

Aims and objectives

The overall project aim was to increase the number and diversity of dietetic practice placements offered across Scotland, and the objectives to meet this aim included:

- Diversifying dietetic student PrBL opportunities across Scotland
- Increasing numbers of practice placement weeks offered by the workforce across Scotland
- Further developing communication and collaboration between stakeholders
- Developing and raising awareness of a range of accessible resources supporting PEs to confidently deliver diverse and modern placement experiences
- Building capacity and capability within the dietetic workforce in the delivery of PAL placements

Actions/outputs

- Developing digital resources in specialist areas: short life working group formed and the module has been planned. The resource will be written as a Microsoft SWAY and reviewed by a user group.
- Project lead undertook the 'Train the Trainer' training for PAL placements and co-facilitated 5 interactive workshops. Dietitians attended all of the multi professional PAL workshops which were delivered over summer 2022, and a uni-professional dietetic PAL workshop was delivered in October 2022.
- Worked with the board PEL in NHS Lanarkshire to plan a workshop looking at the PrBL offer within the Board. Following this, the PrBL timetable within the Board

was modified and the first students undertook the placement in autumn 2022, which has been evaluated.

- The possibility of PrBL opportunities within a cross / third sector organisation was explored with the centre chief executive officer, PE lead from NHS Lothian, cross / third sector PEL, and HEI representative. A site visit was carried out. It was felt that there was insufficient governance in place to support a PrBL opportunity in the short term, but that this was a possibility with additional support. By March 2023 guidance will be available for PEs on facilitating, planning or supervising a cross / third sector dietetic placement in Scotland.

Impact

Engagement Impact

- Questionnaire distributed to dietetic practice educators (n=71 responses)
- 35 dietitians attended either uni or multi-professional PAL workshops
- The stakeholder group met 5 times between April 2022 and March 2023 with attendance from >50% of territorial boards as well as NES PELs, board PELs and the BDA Policy Officer
- Student evaluation of placement re-design in NHS Lanarkshire

Education Impact

- Dietitians attending the interactive PAL workshop reported increased knowledge and confidence to deliver a PAL placement
- Students undertaking the placement in NHS Lanarkshire reported increased confidence in comparison with their previous practice placement

Performance Impact

- Action plan developed for sustainability and increased collegiate working across HEIs and Board PEs

Learning / Recommendations

- Guidance for cross / third sector placements could be built on and strengthened with student/PE stories.
- PAL should be embedded and promoted within the profession so that it becomes business as usual.
- The digital module for specialist areas could be developed further on other areas eg Mental Health where recruitment is challenging and PrBL opportunities are inconsistent across the profession.
- The stakeholder group should be sustained to ensure continued engagement and collaboration via an ongoing programme of work that recommend next steps for the profession.
- Placement models and timetables should continue to be evaluated and refreshed to reflect the dietitian of the future.

Further information is available here: <https://api.ltb.io/show/ABSRT>

This resource may be made available, in full or summary form, in alternative formats and community languages. Please contact us on **0131 656 3200** or email **altformats@nes.scot.nhs.uk** to discuss how we can best meet your requirements.



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