

How can a medical education training centre replace the work experience void created by Covid-19?

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INTRODUCTION

NHS Lanarkshire has supported a widening access program for many years, providing hospital work experience placements and skills days for school pupils interested in applying to medical school. Covid-19 restrictions and ongoing constraints post pandemic has meant the previous provision of work experience in NHS Lanarkshire is no longer an option. As a result one of the existing sessions A Junior Dr for the Day was redesigned to offer simulated sessions lost as a result of covid-19 and provide pupils with experiences they can discuss during their application process.

METHODS

The course was reviewed to align with university requirements for work experience. TEAMS calls with families and services users were introduced through Downs Syndrome Scotland. An Escape room (figure 1) and mixed fidelity simulations run to simulate experiences within the health service from the perspectives of both medical professionals and patients (Figure 4) with facilitator led debriefs to encourage pupils to reflect on the day. (Figure 3)



Figure 1



Figure 2

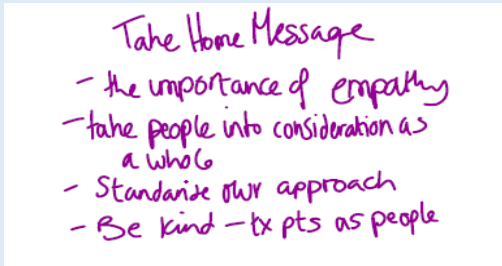


Figure 3



Figure 4

OUTCOMES

Over 250 pupils have participated since the changes, reporting it was fun, educational and provided insight into the role of doctors and challenges that patient's experience (Figure 2). They valued the opportunity to engage with health care professionals. Participants who go on to attend medical school are invited back to support the program and share their experiences.

CONCLUSIONS

The removal of work experience placements has created a challenge for current pupils to gain experience of working in the health service, A Junior Dr for the Day bridges some of this gap through simulation. Feedback from participants is positive with regards to its usefulness and the course is being used as a template by other allied health professions to develop their own programs.

References

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