

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



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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).

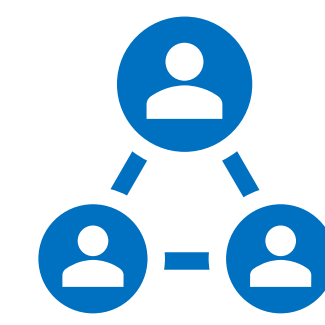
Results



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

Further evaluation information: [infographic](#)

Methodology

12 specific projects undertaken from September 2021 to March 2023 (10 Uni-professional, 1 infrastructure, 1 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:

[Learning Toolbox \(ltdb.io\)](https://ltdb.io)

AHP PrBL Recovery



Video summary: <https://vimeo.com/nhseducationforscotland/nes-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 that are modern, diverse, and sustainable. There is strength in developing and utilising a wide range of opportunities including new 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.

For further information:

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