

Clinical Placements Newsletter issue 21 - October 2007 Oxfordshire PCT

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Please ensure this newsletter is available to all community hospital staff, district nurses, health visitors, school health nurses, staff nurses and practice nurses within your practice area.
Please also pass this onto staff who do not have access to e-mail

Dear colleague

We hope you all had a good summer and would like to thank you all for your continued support in relation to students and placements as we start the new academic year. We are very aware that there are significant pressures on the PCT in relation to staffing which are affecting placements in some areas.

N.B Changes to placement planning - District Nursing and Health Visiting teams

From the next semester after Christmas decisions regarding nursing student placements within District Nursing and Health Visiting teams will be co-ordinated by line managers and informed by CPT's/clinical leads. This is a change from what has happened for the past 5 years as teams have been asked to inform us of difficulties which might prevent students being placed with them. Therefore if you anticipate difficulties in being able to support a student for semester 2 after Christmas please inform your line manager. Line managers will then pass planning information onto us from their localities to enable final decisions to be made well in advance of deadlines for Oxford Brookes administrators.

Review of Oxford Brookes pre registration healthcare courses

Oxford Brookes School of health and social care in partnership with placement provider organisations is starting to review all their pre-registration health care programmes in relation to practice learning and placement organisation. This is a lengthy process and may involve revalidation of curricula with regulating bodies such as the NMC. We are also awaiting the outcome of the 'modernising nursing careers' work from the Department of Health as there will be recommendations from this regarding pre registration nursing courses.

As placement facilitators for the Oxfordshire PCT we are involved in the steering group and several of the working groups to ensure the views and needs of the PCT are included in the redesign. Changes to the programmes will not be implemented until September 2009 at the earliest.

There is an extensive consultation period from now until Christmas which will include staff from across the PCT including managers and mentors. Therefore please look out for further information and e-mails as to how you can inform the consultation. You may have the opportunity to contribute via mentor network groups where they exist or DN/HV forums. We will also be sending a questionnaire out via e-mail for you to respond to.

If you haven't been able to contribute by early December in some way and you would like to then please contact one of us for a questionnaire. We are keen to gain the views of as many staff as possible.

MENTORING

Mentor Toolkit

The RCN have just launched a new and revised second edition of the 'Mentor Toolkit'. This is designed to be an aid for mentors supporting students in practice and gives useful guidance and ideas on effective mentoring. It is designed to help mentoring seem less daunting for new mentors and to help develop the skills of experienced mentors. If you are an RCN member you can order your **free** copy by contacting the RCN publications department publication code **002 797** Website: www.rcn.org.uk/publications (you can download it as well).

New NMC Standard - We strongly recommend you read this document. www.nmc-uk.org

Don't forget the NMC has published (August 2006) the new mentor standard to support learning in practice. This document can be found on the NMC website and you can order your own hard copy. This new standard affects all NMC registered staff. We are now starting to implement this standard which includes ensuring that we have adequate numbers of mentors in all placement areas. If you are aware that there is only one qualified mentor in your team or none at all you need to think about staff undertaking the course. Mentor development should feature in staff appraisal and personal development processes as all qualified staff should be involved in supporting students. Mentoring sits within the KSF core dimension 2 personal and people development.

We have been working with Brookes to streamline the APEL (Accreditation of prior Experiential Learning) processes onto the mentor module (U44124) which may allow experienced staff who do not have a recognised mentor qualification to become a qualified mentor without undertaking the taught route. We will be sending this guidance out shortly to line managers but if you would like to receive this information personally then please let us know. If you think you or a member of your team may be interested in undertaking the module by APEL in the New Year it would be helpful if you started collecting/documenting information about your mentoring experiences and challenges from this new academic year to provide evidence for the APEL process.

Mentor update conference

Following the success of the mentor update conference in July at the John Radcliffe hospital there will be a similar event at the Horton hospital on January 17th and will be a whole day event. Flyers will be sent out from us via e-mail nearer the time so if you are interested in attending to update your mentoring skills then speak to your line manager and put this date in your diary and look out for further information from us.

Prospective student interviews

Oxford Brookes are looking for clinical staff who may be interested in helping to interview applicants for the adult nursing programme to start in January or September 2008. Information has recently been e-mailed out to all practice areas with the dates and who to contact within Brookes. If you do not recall seeing this information please contact Maggie Stiles CPF or contact Brookes directly - Sally Morey Senior admissions tutor e-mail sdmorey@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes Placement Portal

Don't forget to have a look at the Brookes placement portal. Please contact your link lecturer or us for the user name and password for the relevant programmes eg adult nursing or children's nursing. You may contact us for help and advice or the placement learning unit at OBU (tel 01865 485262.) There are increasing good examples of student induction booklets which teams have developed in conjunction with students. If you would like to develop one in your area and would like to see what other teams have produced please contact us. The web link for the portal is: <https://webct.brookes.ac.uk/webct/public/home.pl/>

THANKYOU again to all of you for the fantastic support and mentoring you provide for students.

Your continued enthusiasm and support in such busy times is very much appreciated.

Please contact us at any time for advice, help and support.

Kind regards

Maggie Stiles and Linda Kenward - Clinical Placement Facilitators, Oxfordshire PCT.