Building student resilience through a community of learning

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A safe and supportive environment

Wakefield School Nursing, Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership Services
Background

- Set up in 2010
- Support the HV implementation plan
- Bring students together
- Additional support and enhance the learning experience
- Information shared about the student support group & student welcome pack distributed
Aims

• Facilitate access to resources available within and external to the organisation
• Promote exchange of ideas, learning and reflections on practice
• Share examples of best practice
• Strengthen existing knowledge & skills
• Provide a safe environment
Setting up a community of learning

- Terms of reference
- Ground rules
- Monthly support group meetings
- Financial implications in times of reduced funding
- Agree the venue, how often to meet and the length of each session
- Determining the agendas,
- Timely completion of minutes and evaluation
Monthly evaluations

- Evaluations sheets are provided at the end of each support group meeting
- Determine relevance of topics and application to practice
- Establish if learning outcomes were met and were all students voices heard at the meeting
- Results of the evaluation allow method/teaching to be revise to make sure the learning outcomes are aligned with teaching style
- Feedback improves the teaching, builds trust and a paper/electronic trail of record of the effectiveness of the group
Positive outcome

• Monthly evaluation by the students are very positive with 95%-100% reporting they are very satisfied with the support group, speakers and learning experience
• Reports from university course leaders indicate the group is valued by students
• Students share their learning from the group at university, web pages and online student networks
• Focus group highlighted benefits of student support group
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• The group contributes greatly to the provision of supportive evidence/development required for the students’ E-Portfolio, PebblePad and learning contracts

• Students report attending the group has:
  – Increased their resilience
  – Increased their motivation
  – Improved ability to reflect on their practice/professional development
  – A better understanding of how to apply the four principles of health visiting to their practice
Sustaining the group

- Evaluations, minutes and agendas shared with students, senior manager & universities
- The profile of the group is raised by placing articles on the organisations news letters, websites, bulletins as well as national journals including NHS and nursing website/magazine/newsletter/website/NHS FAB Stuff
- The group has been discussed at CPHVA conference and posters have been displayed about the benefits of the group
- Pamela and Paula have published articles about the group
- Students are given preceptorship pack and a named preceptor on securing a job within the organisation
- Plans being developed to have a monthly support group for newly qualified, returners to practice and those who have had a break in service
What our students say about the group

• “I have found the group extremely beneficial, it has helped to add further substance to the theory and skills I am learning.”

P Shaw & P Elliott
Ashley Appleyard

• “I enjoy the guest speakers that Pamela arranges, as they help to throw another perspective on a topic and can often open up debate amongst us, which all add to the learning experience.”
Kelly Lee

• “The practice educators who run the group are dedicated, and focused on making the students’ experience a positive one. Without the group I would not have been exposed to many of my learning opportunities that I have received from the trust so far.”
Additional student comments

• “It has been invaluable in preparing us for qualification and becoming autonomous practitioners within health visiting.”
Celebrating our students whilst building their resilience: ‘student support group’
References

• Shaw, P. (2016) Learning support scheme gets students work-ready: A learning support group at Mid Yorkshire Hospital NHS Trust is ensuring student health visitors are adequately prepared for qualification. Community Practitioner, Sep, Vol 89, No 9, P 13
Thank you for listening

Any questions?