Developing an online distance learning course for Speech and Language Therapy Practice Educators

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Varying emotions....
Background: Supporting Practice Placements

- New funding arrangements from 2017 > opportunity for expansion
- 3 year BSc (40-50 students) + (from Sept 2019) 2 year MSc (10-20 students)
- Critical to success:
  - Placement capacity > regional (& national) shortfall ongoing issue
  - Placement quality > regulated by HCPC + critical aspect of student experience
  - Partnership working with placement providers
Placement educator training – face to face delivery

• Aims:
  • Develop clinical educations skills of practice educators
  • Familiarise with LBU process & paperwork
  • Develop enthusiasm for students & seeing them as an asset
  • Networking

• Delivery:
  • Attend initial face to face full day training at LBU
  • Then every 3 years, attend half day refresher training

• Challenges:
  • Ability to access the training
  • Release from clinical commitments to attend the training
  • Distance – some SLTs in North Lincs and Humber
  • Increasing diversity of educators – NHS and independent settings
Rationale for the DL course

- Flexible, on-line access across the region
- Educators keen
- Encourage more educators & build placement capacity
- Extended life & sustainability
Funding for the DL programme

- Funded by Health Education England (Yorkshire & Humber)
- ‘Serendipitous’ timing......

Rationale:
- Develop practice learning opportunities > future workforce
- Contribute to quality enhancement of placements
Aims & Objectives

Aims
• To develop and implement and evaluate a reusable distance learning resource for practice educators

Objectives
• **Scoping of Practice Educator Learning Requirements** (July 2017 – October 2017) Review of current PE provision and feedback; consultation with Practice Educators; review of relevant literature and resources.

• **Development of Distance Learning Course** (October 2017 – August 2018). In collaboration with Leeds Beckett Distance Learning Unit, design and build DL course for Practice Educators.

The process

- Liaison with the Distance Learning team re ‘the build’
- Developing the content
  - 8 units
  - Quizzes
  - Discussion board
  - New educators (whole day) and refresher (half day) training
- Placement admin team support
The units

1. The Student’s perspective
2. How to prepare for having a student
3. Learning approaches
4. Feedback
5. Evidence based practice
6. Grading
7. Supporting students with disabilities
8. Clinical Scenarios
Making it appealing

- Actors
  - Videos
  - Voice overs
- Animations
- Activities
- Clinical application / example
- Workbook style
How it works

- University login from Placement education team
- Complete the module, quiz at the end of each unit
- Complete evaluation at the end
- 3 month window to complete
- Quarterly launch of new cohort
- Evaluation triggers certificate
- Can access the units as long as remain registered with us as an educator (associate staff status)
The first cohort

- 37 educators enrolled since October 2018
- 24 NHS, 13 independent settings
- 19 completed
- 15 evaluations to date
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<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
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<tr>
<td>The objectives were clear</td>
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<td>The course content covered what I needed</td>
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<td>I can apply the information</td>
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<td>The resources were helpful</td>
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<td>The course was presented clearly</td>
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<td>The course was informative</td>
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<td>The course was at an appropriate level</td>
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<td>The admin process to access the course was easy</td>
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<td>The timing to complete was sufficient</td>
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<td>The interactive activities were useful</td>
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<td>I was satisfied with the course</td>
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Likert scale 1 = strongly agree, 5 = Strongly disagree  
Number of people who indicated (n = 15)
### Likert Scale 1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor

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<tr>
<th>Evaluation of Each Unit</th>
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<td>How to prepare for having a student</td>
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<td>Grading</td>
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Feedback to date

- “I found the distance learning course very useful with lots of activities to complete along the way and would also like to have access to the module when I have my next student”

- “Content great, thorough and thought provoking”

- “would like to see responses from other SLT educators to gain different perspectives”
Overview of Kirkpatrick’s Four-Level Training Evaluation Model

- **Results**: The degree to which targeted outcomes occur as a result of the training and the support and accountability package.
- **Behavior**: The degree to which participants apply what they learned during training when they are back on the job.
- **Learning**: The degree to which participants acquire the intended knowledge, skills, attitude, confidence and commitment based on their participation in the training.
- **Reaction**: The degree to which participants find the training favorable, engaging and relevant to their jobs.

Source: Donald Kirkpatrick

(Revised 2016)
Future

- Additional units (e.g. ‘students as assets, project style placements’)
- Review / add scenarios / more videos
- On-line networking opportunities via the platform
- Currently adapting for the new BSc and MSc course – Sept 19

- National Association of Educators in Practice NAEP 2019 conference Birmingham – well received from other professions