



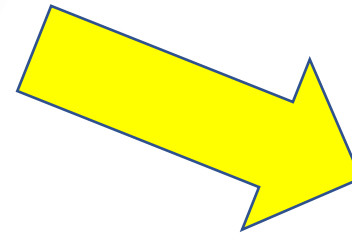
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# Developing an online distance learning course for Speech and Language Therapy Practice Educators

Jo Sandiford, Senior Lecturer,  
Speech & language Sciences,  
Leeds Beckett University



# Varying emotions....





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## 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



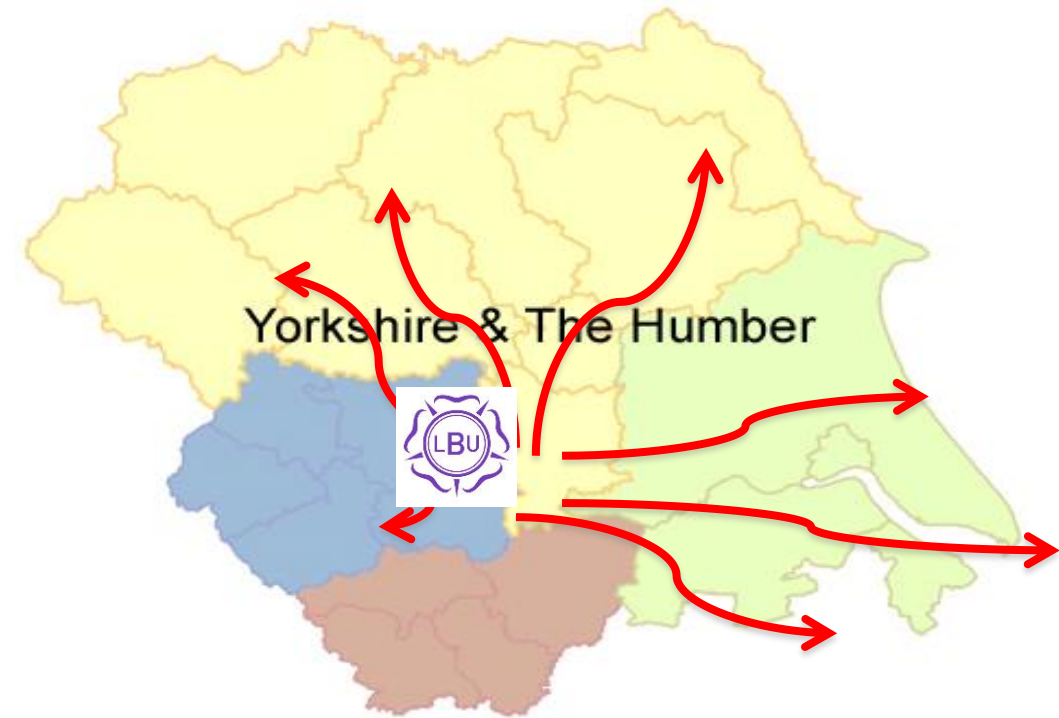
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# Placement educator training – face to face delivery

- Aims:
  - Develop clinical education 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





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# 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



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# 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.
- **Implementation & evaluation** (September 2018 – September 2019) Launch of DL provision. Collection and evaluation of feedback to inform on-going updates



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# 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





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# 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



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# 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)



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# The first cohort

- ❖ 37 educators enrolled since October 2018
- ❖ 24 NHS, 13 independent settings
- ❖ 19 completed
- ❖ 15 evaluations to date



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Likert scale 1 = strongly agree, 5 = Strongly disagree

Number of people who indicated  
(n = 15)

PARAMETER	1	2	3	4	5
The objectives were clear	13	2			
The course content covered what I needed	13	2			
I can apply the information	13	2			
The resources were helpful	12	3			
The course was presented clearly	12	3			
The course was informative	3	12			
The course was at an appropriate level	8	7			
The admin process to access the course was easy	7	4	3	1	
The timing to complete was sufficient	8	5	2		
The interactive activities were useful	10	5			
I was satisfied with the course	10	5			

**LIKERT SCALE 1 = EXCELLENT, 5 = POOR**

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO INDICATED  
(N = 15)**

EVALUATION OF EACH UNIT	1	2	3	4	5
The Student's perspective	12	3			
How to prepare for having a student	11	3			
Learning approaches	11	3	1		
Feedback	14	1			
Evidence based practice	8	7			
Grading	11	2	1		
Supporting students with disabilities	12	3			
Clinical Scenarios	8	7			

# 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”

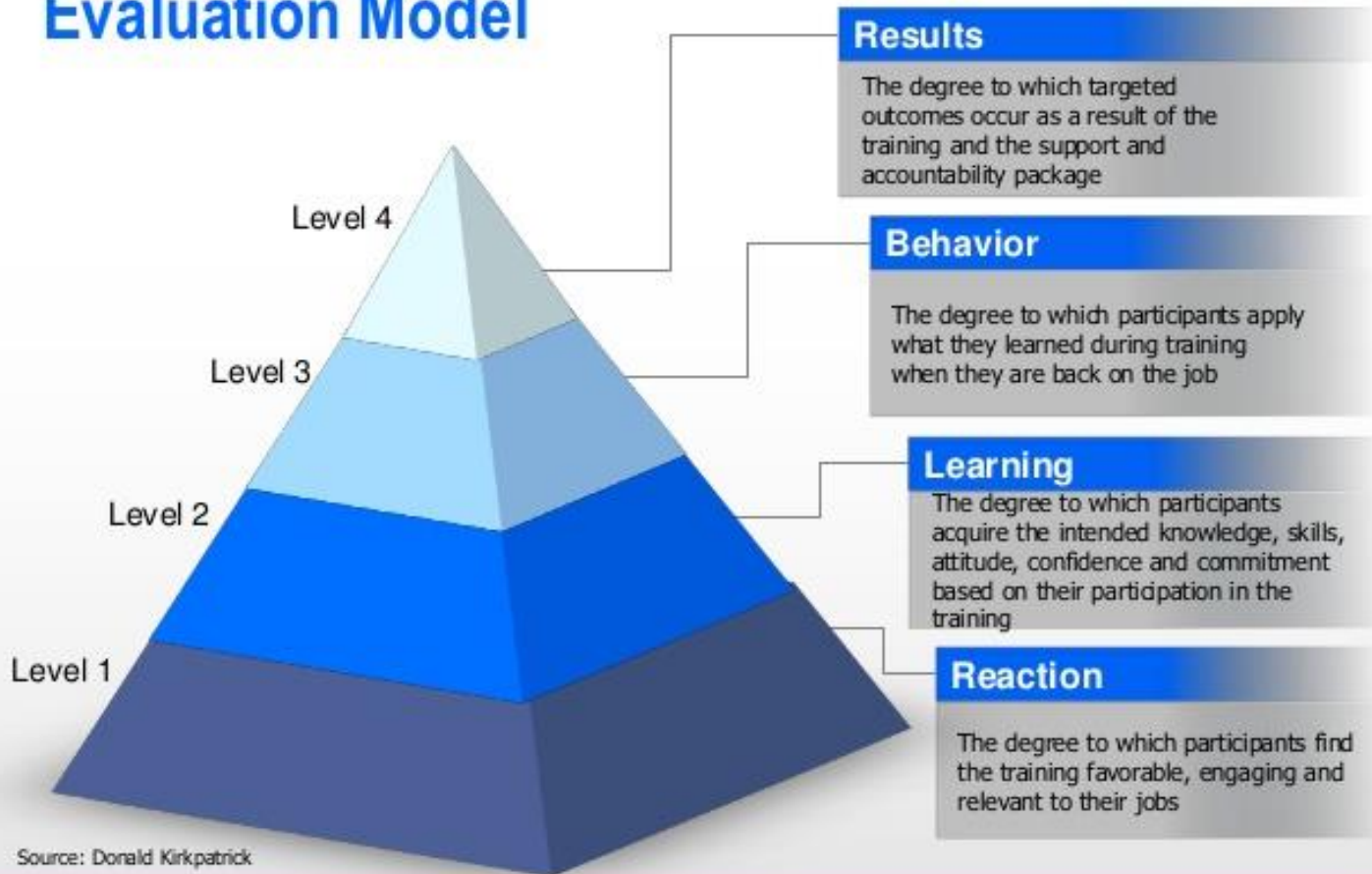


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# Overview of Kirkpatrick's Four-Level Training Evaluation Model



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(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



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