

AHP PrBL Recovery



Executive Summary 2023

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Aim and Background

Covid-19 resulted in disruption to Allied Health Professions (AHP) Practice-based Learning (PrBL). The subsequent reduced capacity risked delayed graduation and workforce supply, increasing pressure on services. Scottish Government funding to address this disruption allowed NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to employ 14 (7.2 whole time equivalent) AHP Practice Education Leads (PELs) for 18 months to lead twelve recovery projects. 10 projects had a specific uni-professional focus, and 2 additional projects looked at infrastructure and cross / third sector placements.

This work is essential to ensure that students have a high quality and positive learning experience. Through the development of modern, diverse, and sustainable PrBL opportunities we will continue to have a new generation of AHP graduates fit to practice and to gain employment across all sectors in Scotland.

Findings and Successes

Scoping identified that access to resources, training opportunities, protected time, and support from managers and peers were key enablers to allow practice educators to develop their knowledge, skills, and confidence in supporting AHP PrBL. In total, the projects created over 50 new AHP PrBL training opportunities, over 30 new resources, 14,000 hours of new PrBL placements, and networks to support and develop PrBL in a modern, diverse, and sustainable way. Examples of key successes are within Table 1 in the main report. A summary of the key focus, impact, and recommendations from each individual AHP PrBL Recovery project can be found within Appendix 1 in the main report.

Recommendations

To help sustain and develop the significant work that has been done the following recommendations are made.

1. Widely share the AHP PrBL recovery reports and resources
2. Identify and utilise clear support mechanisms to continue to build momentum
3. Continue to develop the AHP PrBL Virtual Community
4. Implement a national AHP PrBL campaign
5. Continue to develop and disseminate PrBL training, how-to sessions and resources
6. Deliver long-arm supervision robustly
7. Continue to develop data collection mechanisms to measure and demonstrate impact
8. Embed PrBL and PrBL resources in the national AHP PrBL infrastructure
9. Broaden the use of AHP profession specific approaches in other areas of NES work

Further detail on these recommendations can be found within the recommendations section of the main report.

Conclusion

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 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. Ongoing investment and capacity to maintain, scale up and spread the outcomes will be required.

This resource may be made available, in full or summary form, in alternative formats and community languages. Please contact us on **0131 656 3200** or email **altformats@nes.scot.nhs.uk** to discuss how we can best meet your requirements.



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