

The Sheffield DClin Psy Information Sheet on Supervisor Learning and Development: Mutual Expectations

There is an increasing emphasis on how clinical psychology training courses ensure the quality of the supervisors and the supervision they provide. To this end we aim to provide support and a range of information sharing and training opportunities to equip supervisors to deliver high quality training placements. Following the HCPC approval visit in May 2012 this information sheet has been created to clarify mutual expectations and the framework for training provision for supervisors providing placements for the Sheffield training course. This information sheet has been discussed in the Clinical Practice Sub Committee and will be considered with the Heads of Service at the South Yorkshire Clinical Psychology Education Partnership

There are three aspects to the supervisor training and development provision at Sheffield: Introductory Workshop/Programme Specific Information, Initial Supervisor Training (ISW) and Advanced Supervisor Training (ASW).

Programme specific supervisor information

The course must ensure that each supervisor is sufficiently informed about all aspects of programme specific information prior to the supervisor starting to supervise a trainee on placement. Programme information includes information about Sheffield's assessment procedures, documentation, ethical issues and the process of dealing with trainee failure. Each supervisor must be able to fill out the documentation appropriately, understand and be able to complete the Assessment of Clinical Competence (ACC) form, comprehend the role of the clinical tutor as the trainee's line manager, and be aware of the function of the initial and mid placement visits.

Being aware of such programme specific information is a mandatory aspect of providing placements. This information is delivered in a number of different ways. In September at the beginning of each new academic year, a half-day workshop is provided by the clinical tutor team. The aim of the workshop is to ensure that any new supervisors, or supervisors who are unfamiliar with Sheffield's procedures are provided with such course specific information. On the website there is an example of the programme for the latest half day workshop. Records of attendees are maintained by the course.

A Supervisor Information Pack (SIP) is also available online for supervisors (www.shef.ac.uk/clinicalpsychology/supervisors/sip). This is updated each year and includes information about the expectations of the quality of supervision and placements, administration of placements, procedural guidelines, personal & professional development, core competencies and copies of relevant documentation. Supervisors can also have a hard copy of this on request.

In addition, Initial and Mid-Placement visits provide an opportunity for clinical tutors to ensure that supervisors have sufficient information/updates about any changes to any

aspect of placement procedures. Such visits also enable the dissemination of further information and is a space for the supervisors to raise specific questions/concerns. . A meeting between supervisor and clinical tutor (without the trainee present) is scheduled as part of the MPV, partly with the aim of facilitating this process. For supervisors who have returned to work or to supervision after an extended absence it is possible for clinical tutoring staff to provide a informal 'tutorial' for the supervisor prior to the start of placement. The supervisor is also able to contact a member of the clinical tutor team (generally the first port of call is the trainee's specific clinical tutor who occupies the role of line manager) should any procedural queries arise.

Clinical tutor staff can follow up any additional training needs for supervisors, and generate a shared plan of action about how any gaps are filled. This may include further discussion with tutors, or attendance at a training event, which can be developed specifically to meet the needs of a group of supervisors. The CPU also has resources available for loan to supervisors including books, papers and information sheets on supervision, DVDs and self-directed study/exercises

Initial Supervisor Training (ISW)

This is a programme of workshops, which confers eligibility for supervisor accreditation under the BPS. The workshops are built upon the STAR (Supervisor Training and Recognition) Foundation Supervisor Training learning outcomes. The workshops are jointly organised and delivered by the Sheffield, Leeds and Hull clinical training courses. ISW begins with a 2 day residential for supervisors from all 3 courses. Specific programme information and a general question and answer session for each of the clinical psychology courses is integrated into the last day of the residential. In this way new supervisors will gain training on aspects of supervision and specific information about their local clinical psychology training course. This is then followed by a further 2 days during the course of the year back at the specific training base of the supervisor. A portfolio of work is submitted at the end of the year. Additional information about ISW can be found on the supervisor training website. Records of attendees are maintained by the course and if you are new to the supervision of trainees on placement fulfilling all the learning objectives of the ISW course and passing the assessment of the portfolio is mandatory prior to the allocation of a trainee.

Advanced Supervisor Training (ASW)

The Sheffield, Leeds and Hull training courses also jointly plan and deliver 3 separate training workshops a year for more advanced or established supervisors. The details of these workshops run over the last few years can be found on the website. There is currently a National Working Party who are updating the learning outcomes on advanced/experienced supervisor training and a draft document is currently out for consultation. Following the consultation period our procedures will aim to integrate national learning outcomes.

If you have any queries about any aspects of the supervisor training provision please

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