Introduction
Welcome to the Sheffield DClin Psy Placement Developments Update. We have been busy making a number of changes to our documents and procedures, partly as a result of the new BPS Accreditation Criteria having now come into force. We are also making changes to placement visits and will be gradually moving to placing all our placement related documents onto an online system. In order to keep you up to date we have provided a brief summary below. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us directly. We will soon be announcing a supervisor training day that will include further information about many of these changes.

Revised BPS Accreditation Criteria
As you may be aware, the BPS have recently produced revised accreditation criteria for Clinical Psychology training courses within the UK. These criteria place particular emphasis on therapy specific competencies and on leadership skills and state that trainees should, by completion of training, be competent in CBT, and at least one other model. We are therefore working to ensure that all our trainees, through our normal range of placements, have the opportunity to develop these skills. Many supervisors have helpfully provided us with information about the models used in their work to aid with the process of matching learning needs with placements. We are also currently drawing up a document regarding the required CBT competencies and this will be shared with supervisors as soon as we are able to do so.

We have recently advertised a number of Advanced Supervisor Training events that are intended to support supervisors in assessing therapy skills.

Log of Competencies and Experience (E-Portfolio)
Staff from the three Programmes within the Yorkshire and Humber region have worked together to develop a new Log of Placement Experience. This sets out the competencies and therapeutic skills for a number of different models of working. It also includes a place to record other placement experience, including leadership and service delivery. Our 1st year trainees have recently begun using this Log to record their placement experience. Information in the log should be used to inform placement aims and identify learning needs in relation to therapy and other skills. Currently this log is available to our trainees as an EXCEL document.

Pebblepad
This is an online system used for assessment, teaching and learning. Gradually, we plan to move many of the documents used for assessing and monitoring placement activity to Pebblepad. The existing version of the Placement Audit is currently being transferred over and there are further plans for the Log of Placement Experience to follow. An advantage of this move is that trainees can store all their placement documents in one place and individual contributors to documents (supervisors, tutors and trainees) can gain access to required sections of relevant documents through any computer that has web access. Further information about the system can be found at www.pebblepad.co.uk.
Changes to the ACC and placement visits
As a result of changes to the BPS Accreditation Criteria we have reviewed our Assessment of Clinical Competencies (ACC) document to ensure that it adheres to the new criteria. As part of this review we have streamlined the ACC by reducing the overall number of competencies to be assessed from 12 to 8. We hope that this will have the effect of clarifying and simplifying the assessment process. In order to reflect the course's emphasis on the importance of personal and professional development (PPD) we have made this the first competency to be recorded on the new form.

Many of you will also be aware that we have recently made changes to the Initial Placement Visit (IPV) procedures. For placements 2-4 trainees are now responsible, within the first 3 weeks of placement, for completing the relevant sections of the ACC form with their supervisors in draft form. The trainee will then meet up with their clinical tutor at the university to discuss their draft plan and have it finalised. The clinical tutor will also telephone the supervisor to make sure everything is proceeding smoothly. However, the supervisor, trainee or the clinical tutor can request a face-to-face IPV if this would be helpful.

The MPV will be carried out as usual with the clinical tutor attending at the placement base to meet with the supervisor and trainee.

Practice Based Evidence in Supervision
In October 2012 the Sheffield, Leeds and Hull Programmes embarked on a joint venture, drawing on an expanding literature in the field of Practice-Based Evidence. During the pilot stage of the project, every trainee in the 2012 intake was asked to track and record the range of measures used on placement during years one and two. We are now in the second phase of this project. First and second year trainees now have free access to the web-based suite of facilities on the CORE-net website in order to record anonymised data from outcome and alliance measures. The CORE connection offers the opportunity to record information electronically and take advantage of online facilities such as instant graphical data display. The measures that were used most frequently by trainees from the 2012 intake are available on the CORE-net site. The choice of which measures to use, with whom and when is entirely locally determined.

Local NHS Trust R&D departments have all been informed of this project, and trainees are piloting the use of a consent form and information sheet for service users. This means there is the future potential for developing a Practice Research Network (PRN) where an ever-expanding local data-base can be drawn upon for research purposes by legitimate interested parties such as trainees undertaking doctoral research projects or service user groups wishing to explore questions of common concern.

Current first and second year trainees are required to ensure that they provide their supervisors access to the CORE-net system in order that recorded data can be monitored and used within supervision. Over the next year we will be exploring ways of getting feedback from supervisors, trainees and service users about their experiences and opinions in relation to this project.

We would welcome your comments and feedback on all of the above developments.

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