



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NEW UNIVERSITY

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EVALUATION OF LEARNING AND ROLE DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF A NEUROSCIENCE CARE COURSE

RUTH TROUT SENIOR LECTURER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NEW UNIVERSITY
 CLAIRE LYNCH SENIOR LECTURER, BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
 NEW UNIVERSITY

BACKGROUND

- There are increasing numbers of patients with long term neurological conditions (Neurological Alliance, 2014). These are complex conditions requiring complex knowledge & skill sets.
- For a variety of reasons the Birmingham City University Neuroscience Degree Course no longer sustainable.
- Contact was made with RT/BNU through British Association of Neuroscience Nurses links

BNU positives:

- History of 'in house courses' with local hospitals
- Experienced Neuroscience lecturer
- More affordable options
- Appropriate and even split allocation of workload between university and trust

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- Modules co-designed by RT and CL
- 30 academic credits at level 6 or level 7
- Sessions taught at QEHB by Consultants & Clinician Nurse Specialists
- Clinical educator (PGCE) to co-ordinate
- Students are full members of BNU
- Campus access if wanted
- Online services: library, SLAT, BlackBoard
- Lecturer input throughout module with availability throughout the working week for queries, tutorial and general academic support

THE AUDIT

- In 2023 the course had been running for 7 years and had educated over 100 students.

AIM:

- To gain an insight into how students practice and role has changed since completing the Neuroscience Course in Birmingham.
- To evaluate the impact of the course on students practice
- To use the data to inform the review and ongoing delivery of the Neuroscience Course in Birmingham

THE AUDIT: METHOD

- Audit Tool - Questionnaire
- Piloted pre sending for clarity & understanding
- Questionnaire sent to all previous students – Sample Size 100
- Change in role or institution meant email addresses may have changed
- Participation Voluntary - Students may chose not to take part
- Consent Gained and ethical considerations met
- Data collection Anonymous to allow freedom of speech
- The questionnaire had three elements: Your Practice, Your role, The programme
- Open ended question: 'Is there anything else you would like to add about the course or your opportunities after completing the course?'

THE AUDIT: RESPONSE RATES

- Approx 9% (8 respondents / 1 unopenable)
- Professions: Nurses 7, Dietician 1

FINDINGS

YOUR PRACTICE:

- Practice and confidence changed for all:**
- Confidence in recognising deterioration & escalating
 - Supporting junior members of staff
 - Deeper theoretical understanding & use of evidence based decision making
 - Greater understanding of MDT/holistic care
- Implementation of improvement projects for 50% of respondents:**
- Unit now cares for patients with nasogastric tubes
 - Nursing care of ICP
 - Sleep improvement strategies for TBI patients
 - Teaching sessions for junior staff
 - Projects to support higher dependency patient policies

YOUR ROLE:

- Strong correlation between course completion and promotion**
- 100% more confident in applying for promotions
 - 87% received promotion since completion
- Of this:
- 60% into leadership roles
 - 40% into education or research roles
 - 87% now able to teach junior members of staff:

THE PROGRAMME:

- Strengths**
- Mix of staff backgrounds & specialities supported peer learning
 - Mix of teaching & learning strategies
 - Interactivity
 - Specialist knowledge of staff
 - Clear and well structured curriculum
- Weaknesses**
- Balance between surgery & medicine
 - No practical element
 - Volume of content
 - Workload balance

Analysis of Impact:

- 100% worth the time
- 87% more likely to stay in work place (retention)
- 100% more effective practioners
- 87% increased morale
- 87% more efficient

"I feel that this course is invaluable for nurses working within a neurosurgical setting"

"Please continue this course...I feel strongly that this had a positive impact on my practice"

"it has been great to see junior members of staff attend the course themselves and seeing their confidence grow as a result, which ultimately benefits the patients and the care they receive, but also the positive effect it has had on the ward team"

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

STRENGTHS

- Piloted data collection tool
- Post completion of course so no risk of positive bias
- Quantitative and qualitative data

WEAKNESSES

- Convenience sample
- Low response rate
- Recollection issues/bias

Reference

Neurological Alliance (2014) Neuro Numbers London

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