

Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DCLin Psy) – University of Sheffield

PLACEMENT MEETINGS AND REPORTS FOR YEAR-LONG MIXED SPECIALTY PLACEMENTS

Background

Starting in 1991/92, we introduced a number of placements in which the trainee's work with adult and older adult clients was planned across one year, with the same supervisor(s) in the same location(s). There are some opportunities that arise from year-long placements and also potential risks. The opportunities include:

1. Clinical work being extended over a full year.
2. More stability and continuity for trainees in their working relationships and practical arrangements.
3. Breaking down the arbitrary barrier between adults under and over the age of 65.
4. Reflecting the way that an integrated service is provided in some settings.
5. Utilising Health Psychology services and settings for trainees to develop their first year competencies.

Potential risks, and how we guard against them, are:

1. Insufficient experience with older adult clients being available, or lack of supervisor expertise working with older adults. This is being addressed by:
 - a) Active liaison with supervisors of year-long placements to ensure that their placement meets requirements of a competency-based training model.
 - b) Monitoring at placement meetings and ongoing discussions/reviews about trainees gaining appropriate experience with older adults.
2. A year-long relationship between a supervisor and trainee raises the question: what happens if they don't get on? In practice this is a rare occurrence, and it is more likely to be the case that the longer period is experienced as a bonus. However, the situation will be regularly monitored by the Clinical Tutor, through placement meetings (see below) and informal contact, so that any problems can be identified and responded to early.

Placement Structure, Review and Assessment

Although placements are conceptualised as being for a year, they will fall naturally into two halves, separated by an academic block of three to four weeks for trainees in their first and second years. The year long placement will be considered for the sake of assessment, as two placements with two MPVs. This is not the case in the third year though.

Placement aims and objectives will therefore be agreed separately for the first and second placements (or in essence the first and second halves of the year long placement), and the trainee's performance will be assessed accordingly. In this way, all trainees will have the

same number of assessment reports, and placements will not be left to drift away from initial plans. In the event of more than one supervisor being involved, there will need to be a named co-ordinating supervisor either for the full year or for each half of the placement. This should be discussed at the initial placement visit. Meetings to plan and review placement progress will be organised as follows:

Initial Placement Planning Meeting

This will take place in the first two to three weeks of the start of the placement. The purpose of the meeting will be to agree:

- a) Aims and objectives for the first half of the placement (placement 1).
- b) Aims and objectives that will extend over the year.
- c) It may be the case that the additional complexity of the year -long placement is best served with the establishment of two IPVs at the start of placement 1 and what would be placement 2.

First Mid Placement Review

This will take place at around two to three months into the placement and will take the form of a normal mid-placement meeting, focusing partly on how well planned aims and objectives are being achieved and partly on a feedback to the trainee regarding his or her performance during the placement.

First ACC

At the end of the first half of the year long placement (in essence placement 1) the supervisor(s) will complete the end of placement sections on the Assessment of Clinical Competence form to assess the trainee's performance in the placement up to that time. This will also provide an opportunity to identify particular targets or areas to cover in the next part of the placement.

Second Placement Planning Meeting (IPV)

This will take place within two or three weeks of the start of the second half of the placement.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- a) To agree aims and objectives for the second half.
- b) To review the achievement so far of the initial year-long aims, and modify if necessary.

Second MPV

This will take place midway through the second half of the placement and again will take the form of a normal mid-placement meeting focusing partly on how well planned aims and objectives are being achieved and partly on feedback to the trainee regarding his or her performance during the placement.

Second ACC

At the end of the placement the supervisor(s) will complete a report on the trainee's performance, focusing on the second half of the placement but also taking into account progress over the year as a whole. At this stage, where appropriate the supervisor and trainee should also complete a continuity sheet indicating any targets or areas on which to focus during the second year of training.