

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

TRAINEE GUIDANCE ON PLACEMENT ALLOCATION PROCEDURE

This section is intended to provide information to trainees about the criteria and procedures involved in the allocation of trainee placements within years 1 and 2. The following is a list of the main factors influencing this process:

- 1. Placement availability and supervisor factors:** A wide range of factors influence the availability of placements. These include the movement of supervisors in and out of posts, supervisor leave from posts (e.g. maternity leave) and the availability of resources to support training placements (e.g. desk space and admin cover). Additional supervisor factors influencing both the availability and range of placements include supervisors' personal needs and the experiences they are able to offer based on their service setting and their own knowledge and skills. All of these factors mean that there are a limited number and range of placements on offer at any given time. Within some specialities there can be a particularly limited pool of placements. The main task of those involved in placement allocation is to match the available placements to the learning needs of individual trainees.
- 2. Competency development needs:** As training progresses, trainees develop a range of competencies relevant to the roles of a clinical psychologist. In order to develop these competencies they need to gain specific experiences while on placement (e.g. the opportunity to carry out psychological assessments and interventions with service users). Competency development needs arise where a trainee has not been able to gain specific experiences and, as a result, develop certain competencies. When allocating placements, these needs must be taken into consideration in order that all trainees have developed the full range of competencies by the end of training. While trainees may sometimes request that their personal interests be taken into account, this information can only be considered once any outstanding competency development needs have been addressed. However, future career aspirations (e.g. the wish to work with children when qualified) will be considered where possible.
- 3. Trainee personal needs:** Where individual trainees have on-going health conditions or disabilities, Programme staff must ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to training provision in order to facilitate the individual's access to training. These adjustments need to be taken into account in the allocation of placements. Other personal needs are also considered during the allocation process such as needs associated with caring roles and specific life events such as bereavement. It is important to keep your Clinical Tutor informed of any changes to your personal needs and circumstances in order that these can be considered in the placement allocation process.
- 4. Travel:** During the selection process, candidates are made aware of the need to travel throughout the region as part of training. However, when allocating placements, the Programme team does endeavour to employ as fair a system as possible in relation to travel time. As such, they will consider whether a trainee has had significant travel to a previous placement. These factors can only be taken into consideration once the above factors have been addressed (competency needs and personal needs). Ability and access to travel by car is also taken into account where possible.

Placements undertaken by Sheffield DClin Psy trainees will normally be located within the Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham areas. A limited number of placements are also used in North Lincolnshire and North Derbyshire.

- 5. Third year placements:** Although the above procedures and criteria are relevant to the process of allocating third year placements, there are additional factors that make the allocation process slightly different for third years. There is a separate document ('Planning your Third Year Placements – Frequently Asked Questions') outlining this process, which is available on MOLE.