

Using ePortfolio action planning tools to support learning in clinical practice

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Context of Innovation

- Mandatory 50:50 Theory Practice
- Assessment of Practice
- Ongoing record of achievement
- University adoption of ePortfolio
- Ecoversity and Workload Issues

Implementation of Pebblepad clinical placement action plans

- preloaded with steps to success – based on NMC requirements
- Stored as gateway resource
- Introduced September 2008
- Copied to student assets
- Shared with link Lecturer

Evaluation

- SWOT analysis
- Year 1 and 2 after 1 placement
- Similar themes and issues but year one more positive
- Year 3 after 2 placements not yet analysed

Strengths

"More room on pebblepad than in portfolio, no word limit, loads of space. Work doesn't get lost" 1Y

"Good use of available spare time in placement, can be accessed easily and readily" Y2

"Feedback from link lecturer, straight away, prompts, guides you in placement what you need to know" 1Y

"Being able to reflect on experience also to keep private thoughts private" 1Y

"Environmentally friendly –reduces travel"Y2

Weaknesses

Mentors not aware of /happy about/ don't understand pebblepad action plans Y2

Can't always use it in placement no time etc Y1

Computer access especially difficult in community Y2

Easily distracted to other sites when on internet Y1

Does not always save your work; sometimes takes a long time to load up. Computer crashes. Y1

Slow – longer time spent than writing in pink book. Y2

Impossible to format- no highlights, bullet points, spaces,

Not environmentally friendly (printing) Y2

Opportunities

Would like to be able to change format: Underlining bold and paragraphs needed Y1

Would like opportunity to use PDA's on placement (portability, accessibility ease of use) Y1

Mentors need updating, training to learn about PPad Y1

Mentors should have own pebblepad access Y2

Change paper format so writing not expected Y2

Threats

- *Paper copy could be more user friendly for mentors. Y1*
- *Some midwives technophobes Y2*
- *No computer or internet, limited access Y1*
- *Does it give less practice time in placement? Y1*
- *Online distractions Y2*

Summary

No going back

BUT need to improve:

- Technology
- Staff and student skills
- Embed sustainable shared practices
- Encourage NHS to embrace technology