

Placement profile

Names and roles **Steffi Bailey - Physiotherapy Clinical Lead and Katie Myers - Inpatient Therapies Operational Lead**

Organisation **Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust**



Placement overview

Our setting is 4 inpatient rehabilitation units across West Sussex. The majority of patients are older adults who are referred to us from the acute sector for ongoing rehabilitation. In the team we have Physio's, OT's and Therapy assistants plus the extended MDT including nurses, medical team, social workers etc.

Over the last 6 weeks we had 2 students on a leadership placement with us, one from the University of Brighton and the other from the University of East Anglia. For the duration of the placement the students split their time approximately 50:50 between clinical work and leadership project work. The clinical work involved working on their rehabilitation and discharge planning skills on the inpatient wards. The second element involved gaining a greater understanding of how leadership skills can be developed at all stages of practice.

The students attended our weekly management meetings, eventually building up to minute taking and chairing these meetings under our supervision. They were able to observe the recruitment and interview process of new staff. They were also set 4 projects to work on for the duration of the placement. These included designing and facilitating a band 3 and 4 student educator workshop. They explored therapy leadership roles and wrote up a blog summarising their findings. They completed a falls audit on 2 inpatient units, and then discussed the results and an action plan with the Trusts Falls Lead. Finally, they interviewed 30 patients to understand what it is like to be a patient on our units, particularly poignant at the moment with Covid-19 causing so much stress for both staff and patients. This powerful feedback was shared through a bitesize training session with the wider MDT on the wards.

Supervision: 2:1, 1:1, face to face, long armed supervision

Lessons learnt:

1. Due to Covid-19 many wider management meetings were cancelled. The students were asked to focus on smaller local service improvement projects, which will likely have more impact on the service, staff and patients.
2. This different way of providing a placement allowed the students to work independently for a lot of the time, whilst still feeling part of the physio team.
3. Setting up a basic time table allowed the students to structure how they may achieve project goals and also challenged their organisational and prioritisation skills.
4. With clear objectives students can achieve so much, including projects that we may have been struggling to find the time for ourselves!
5. We were surprised with what could be achieved!

Student Quotes:

- *'I have really enjoyed the clinical and non-clinical aspects of the placement. I have been pushed out of my comfort zone with the non-clinical elements which has been good to build my confidence.'*
- *'Completing a falls audit was a new experience as a student. I enjoyed the discussion after with the MDT and then seeing changes to patient care implemented as result'*
- *'Leadership placements are incredibly exciting. I've been devising questions to gather patient perceptions on the ward, and researching how to deliver training to therapy assistants.'*