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End of Year Fellowship Report: Primary Care Training (Quality and Roadmap Supervision)
Fellowship 2022-23

Summary:

I am pleased to present this comprehensive end-of-year fellowship report, which outlines the progress and achievements of the fellowship undertaken during the past year. This fellowship provided an exceptional opportunity to address the needs of first contact practitioners (FCPs) in primary care healthcare in the area of Wessex. As an FCP 'train the trainer' and FCP supervisor, I was able to enhance my skills and make substantial contributions in line with two primary aims:

Aim 1: Development of a Community of Practice for FCPs and FCP Supervisors

Activities:

This fellowship involved a collaborative project with Dr. Tony Chalmers, who focused on the taught route of FCP accreditation, while I concentrated on the portfolio route. Our shared goal was to create a robust online community of practice (CoP) for FCPs and FCP supervisors. The following activities were undertaken to achieve this aim:

- Identifying and reaching out to FCPs and supervisors to encourage participation in the CoP.
- Establishing a monthly online platform to facilitate discussions, resource sharing, and networking.
- Disseminating up-to-date information, best practices, and clinical guidelines.
- Facilitating discussions on day-to-day operational challenges, clinical issues, and professional development.
- Collaborating on revising the RMS training course.
- Addressing systems and processes relevant to FCPs.
- Providing a platform for addressing questions regarding the taught route and the roadmap to practice through a portfolio.
- Fostering professional networking and peer support for FCP supervisors.

Outcomes:

The project produced several key outcomes:

- The establishment of a thriving online community with active participation from FCPs and supervisors.
- In-depth discussions on day-to-day operations, clinical challenges, and professional development.
- Enhanced knowledge exchange and support for FCP trainees and supervisors.

- Improved awareness and understanding of the FCP accreditation process.

Challenges:

The creation of the community of practice was not without its challenges, including:

- Difficulty in collecting accurate data on the number of local FCPs and supervisors.
- Challenges in obtaining responses from stakeholders despite multiple outreach efforts.
- Delays resulting from the transition of Health Education England (HEE) to NHSE, which hindered access to the necessary information and contacts.

Aim 2: Clinical Supervision for a First Contact Practitioner

Activities:

The second aim was to provide clinical supervision to a first contact practitioner pursuing the roadmap to practice portfolio. Activities included:

- Conducting regular virtual sessions to assess progress and identify continuing professional development (CPD) needs.
- Offering monthly full-day clinical supervision in a GP surgery setting.

Outcomes:

The clinical supervision approach yielded several positive outcomes:

- Enhanced confidence and competence of the first contact practitioner.
- Completion of stage 1 and stage 2 of the roadmap to practice (sign off).
- Tangible advancement in clinical skills and patient care.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, this fellowship year has been a transformative period of professional growth and contribution to the field of first contact practitioners in primary care healthcare. Both aims were successfully completed, demonstrating a significant impact on FCPs, their supervisors, and the quality of care provided to patients.

The challenges faced during the development of the community of practice have provided valuable insights into the need for better data collection and communication strategies. It is evident that access to a national or local list of FCPs is not as easy as it would be expected. These challenges will inform future efforts to strengthen the community of practice.

I extend my gratitude for the support provided by the local FCP lead and the collaborative spirit of Dr. Tony Chalmers, which played a pivotal role in the success of this fellowship. We sincerely hope that the CoP will continue to exist with facilitation of the FCP lead.

As we look ahead, I remain committed to advancing the field of first contact practice and anticipate continued growth and collaboration in the coming year.

Acknowledgments:

I would like to express my appreciation to all individuals and organizations that contributed to the success of this fellowship and especially my mentor, Lisa Sheppard.

Sincerely,

Harry Kardamilas
30/10/2023