



# Mentors' newsletter plus

## Practice Learning Team (PLT) News

School of Nursing · School of Nursing · School of Nursing

Issue 11 · Winter 2006

### MSPs

Have you had an annual update?  
It is an NMC requirement that all Mentors are updated annually.

## The new Mentor Support Practitioners We are here to Support and Update you



The Mentor Support Practitioner Project was launched in January 2006 and is funded for 18 months by the Workforce Development Confederation. The aim of the project is to help to ensure that existing mentors are meeting the NMC requirements for mentorship by delivering support and updates to mentors through the development and implementation of a Mentor Support Practitioner (MSP) role.

So far we have had three rounds of interviews, and, considering the unprecedented difficulties Trusts are currently experiencing, I am very pleased to confirm that we have agreed NINE secondments. Each MSP works from 1 – 4 days per week for the University specifically to support and update mentors. The number of MSPs appointed to each health community reflects the numbers of students undertaking training.

## So who & where are your MSPs? and What do they do?

**April Buckthorpe covers:**  
**Lincoln County Hospital & Community and can be accessed on**  
Tel: 01522 540534 or email: April.Buckthorpe@nottingham.ac.uk

**Andrea Hall covers:**  
**Grantham and Pilgrim Hospital and can be accessed on**  
Tel: 01476 565232 ext 4472 or email: Andrea.Hall@nottingham.ac.uk

**Binny Baumber covers:**  
**Louth General Hospital & Local Community and can be accessed on**  
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**Clare Credland covers:**  
**Gainsborough Hospital Community and can be accessed on**  
Tel: 01522 540543 or email: Clare.Credland@nottingham.ac.uk

**Kerrie Adams covers:**  
**Nottingham Community and can be accessed on**  
Tel: 0115 8230971 or email: Kerrie.Adams@nottingham.ac.uk

**Jan Hallows covers:**  
**Mental Health and Learning Disability and can be accessed on**  
Tel: 01332 347141 Ext. 4416 or email: Jan.Hallows@nottingham.ac.uk

**Lou Sherratt covers:**  
**Derbyshire Royal Infirmary & Derby City Hospitals and can be accessed on**  
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**Stephanie Wilson covers:**  
**Nottingham City Hospital. And can be accessed on**  
Tel: 0115 82 30936 or email: Stephanie.Wilson@nottingham.ac.uk

**Sue Froggatt covers Kings Mill & Mansfield Community Hospitals and can be accessed on**  
Tel: 01623 465600 Ext. 65611 or email: Susan.Froggatt@nottingham.ac.uk



### In This Issue

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- ▶ PLT News
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- ▶ The Mentor Awards for 2006 "And the winners are..."

## Mentor Award winners!

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EDITOR

Paula.Hallam@nottingham.ac.uk

# Student Evaluation of Practice (SEP) now online

The MSPs operate within the Practice Learning Team (PLT) structure, and in close liaison with the Inter-professional Practice Learning and Support Units. The main focus of the MSP role is to update and support existing mentors in practice placements.

## Mentor Support Practitioner Key Responsibilities are to:

1. Develop links with the relevant PLT representatives and Practice Learning Advisors/Managers.
2. Identify individuals/groups of existing mentors who have undertaken previous mentor preparation but have not attended/completed an annual update.
3. Develop and implement a rolling programme of face to face annual updating opportunities.
4. Contribute towards the annual updating of the existing mentors using a variety of formats.
5. Maintain accurate records of updating activities undertaken and report achievements to the relevant PLTs and Practice Learning Advisors/Managers.
6. Contribute towards the updating of the live mentor database.
7. Contribute towards the development of alternative annual updating formats.
8. Support and advise mentors facing challenging situations in their assessment of students.
9. Explore alternative models of mentorship.

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MSP IF YOU NEED AN ANNUAL UPDATE OR SUPPORT WITH YOUR MENTORING ROLE.**

The MSP Project is now almost halfway through its eighteen month timeframe. Look out for updates in future issues of the Mentors' Newsletter.

Should you require more information about the project, please contact:

**Paula Hallam, Lecturer,  
University of Nottingham.**

**Tel: 01332 347141 ext 2200/2204,  
mobile 07824326939 or email:  
Paula.Hallam@nottingham.ac.uk**

### Ensuring that there is a robust mechanism for students' evaluation of practice has always been an important element of the School's approach to quality.

For a number of years evaluation was undertaken by students using forms distributed at the end of placements.

The system did not always result in the expeditious feedback of evaluation data to practice. A number of years ago an NCR form (carbon copy) was introduced to enable practice facilitators to speed up the feedback process.

However, with the thousands of evaluations taking place across the School each year, this became something of an administrative burden and it was felt that the system could be improved.

A group consisting of School staff, colleagues from practice and student representation was established and after lengthy deliberations an online version of the form was devised.

### This form can be completed by students wherever they have internet access.

The system became 'live' in October 2005, and apart from the odd technical glitch (always promptly resolved by the School's web editor,

Cherry Poussa) the system appears to have worked well, and experience over the first year has been of a 70% return rate.

### The fixed-response items are collated electronically, summaries of which are collated quarterly. Qualitative data need to be analysed by PLTs who are then in a position to feedback to practice and develop an action-plan where appropriate.

The whole process includes feedback to Staff/Student Consultative Committees and the Diploma/BSc Management Group

Personal tutors are also automatically sent electronic copies of their students' evaluations which can be followed up at personal tutorials. The system can also flag students who do not complete evaluations and personal tutors can then pursue this with them.

The evaluation group continues to meet six-monthly in order to monitor the system and fine-tune it. As part of this monitoring process Cherry (web editor) conducted a short evaluation of what the students thought of the new online SEP. Overall the feedback was very positive. You can see some of the students' verbatim comments inserted across these two pages.

### The S.E.P. form can be found at:

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/practice/evaluation/form.php](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/practice/evaluation/form.php)

**Anthony Ingleton  
Adult Branch Programme Leader, Mansfield**

#### Online SEP

**At first I was unwilling to fill in the evaluation believing it was just more paperwork to complete, but on finishing the evaluation it wasn't as scary as I first thought.**

*Mansfield student*

#### Online SEP

**I much prefer the online evaluations: it gives you time to think a bit more about the whole process and very easy to use and complete.**

*Derby student*

#### Online SEP

**The online evaluation is a fast and convenient way of putting comment and opinions forward. Easy to use.**

*Mansfield student*

#### Online SEP

**It's brilliant: I can sit at home and fill it in.**

*Derby Student Dr*

## Mentoring is not a matter of grading, it is a matter of responsibility!

'As a Registered Nurse, Midwife or Specialist Community Public Health Nurse...

You have a duty to facilitate students of nursing, midwifery and specialist community public health nursing and others to develop their competence.'

The NMC Code of Professional Conduct: Standards for conduct, performance and ethics (NMC, 2004).

## Supernumerary Status

A reminder: students are supernumerary throughout their training and MUST NOT be counted in the numbers!

The NMC (2004) states in the NMC Standards of proficiency for pre-registration nursing education that "Students shall have supernumerary status in practice settings to enable them to achieve the required standards of proficiency. Experiences shall be educationally led and the supernumerary status of students maintained."

### Online SEP

Very easy – much better than the paper ones; have got more time to fill in the comments boxes.

*Nottingham student*

### Online SEP

This has been very easy to use and does not take very long to complete. This will hopefully encourage more students to provide an honest report of their placement experience – whether it is good or bad – in order to help future students get the best from the placement.

*Nottingham student*

### Online SEP

This evaluation form is easy to complete and allows you time to think about and reflect on what happened in placement.

*Lincoln student*

### Online SEP

A good form to complete: easy and straight forward. Oh, if only the assignments were so easy!!!

*Lincoln student*

# 3 in 1 update

## The new, improved, user friendly Mentor Handbook

The 2nd version of the mentor handbook will be coming out to your placements over the next few months. The file cover will change to **bright pink** when it's renewed, so look out for it in your practice area. If old copies are still in circulation, new printed copies can be obtained from the local centre of the School of Nursing on request. Please note that we allocate one copy per placement/speciality area, mentors will not need their own individual copy. The handbook is also available online at

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/practice/mentors](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/practice/mentors)

## News Flash

From September 2006 - ALL STUDENTS FROM ALL COHORTS (with the exception of students on the Extended Course) will have a change to their working hours whilst in practice from 35 hours (exclusive of breaks) per week.

Students will accrue 2.5 hours per week which will be totalled up and centrally organised from the Allocations Department as a reading week.

**These changes apply to the University of Nottingham students only.**

## Non-Branch Placements: Assessment of Practice documentation updated.

This updated document will be used for ALL non-branch placements the student undertakes. The document contains generic outcomes at the beginning of the document that **must be achieved at least once**. These can be achieved in any of the non-branch placements. In addition there are outcomes specific to each non-branch placement that **must be achieved only in the relevant non-branch placement**.

### Mother & Baby and Child Placements

For Adult and Learning Disability branch students it is the responsibility of the student whilst on the Mother & Baby and Health Visitor/ School Nurse placements to decide and negotiate with the mentor which outcomes will be achieved with the Midwife or Health Visitor/School Nurse during these placements. **ONLY ONE** Final Interview Report will be completed for **both** of these placements, i.e. either with the Midwife or Health Visitor/School Nurse. However, both the Midwife and Health Visitor/School Nurse should sign off the relevant outcomes as they are achieved. Students must complete the mandatory Mother and Baby Experience Study Guide for Nursing Programmes and submit this by the stated date to your designated Midwife via the local procedure established by your Centre.

*Richard Pitt – Common Foundation Programme Leader*



# PLT

## Practice Learning Team (PLT) *News*



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## Child Practice Learning Team Time Out day at Pride Park Stadium

**Members of the Derby Child Practice Learning Team (PLT) attended a time out day in April at Pride Park Stadium Derby.**

The Child PLT had been successful in a bid to the PLT fund, and members from child placement areas were able to attend along with educational representatives. They enjoyed lunch in the Baseball Bar and Grill, and also worked very hard on developing a generic student orientation package for use in all acute child placement areas.

The new package, which will be launched in the autumn, aims to provide up-to-date and relevant information and guidance to enhance the experience of students, offering them a consistently high standard of support across the service.

Unfortunately for us, but perhaps fortunately for the amount of work produced, we didn't get to see any footballers having a training session!



*L-R: Jane Barber, Vanessa Unsworth, Katherine Dickens, Becky Harrison, Lynn Driscoll, Verna Shipley, Carol Facey, Zoe Denney, Olga Goss and Sylvia Cammack and Liz Taylor (seated)*

## Introducing Aaron

Hi, my name is Aaron Fecowycz and I'm the School's Assistant Website Editor. In addition to helping maintain and develop the School's website I'm

also involved with the mentor project as a Web Designer/Media Developer. During my time here at the School I've been involved with the following projects:

- ▶ Redevelopment of the Online Mentor Update system – enabling mentors to update online and at their convenience
- ▶ Cardiology Teaching Package
- ▶ Management Workbook
- ▶ Learning Pathway Workbook
- ▶ Portfolio Resource

These resources are currently undergoing testing but are viewable at the following address:

**[www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/practice/resources](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/practice/resources)**

What I hope to be able to offer Practice Learning Teams is creative and technical support, enabling the development of resources for use in practice. I try to take your ideas, add a touch of creativity and inventiveness and turn them into usable, useful resources which can be delivered via the web or CDROM. The earlier that I can get involved in your projects the better the end result can be. You will find me very approachable and I promise not to overwhelm you with technical jargon, which I hope will lead to a relaxed but productive working relationship.

If you have a project in mind or in development please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss how I might be able to help.

**Tel: 0115 8230 794 or  
aaron.fecowycz@nottingham.ac.uk**



# The 2nd Learning Disability PLT Conference

The Bentley Hotel, Lincoln - 25th May 2006

**Be honest, all of you reading this. Do you feel that a good day consists of a conference which involves six hours of listening to new curriculum developments and trying to hold the interest of practitioners from every sector (NHS, Independent Sector, Social Services, LEA) who have only just got their heads around the 'old' curriculum... plus, who were wondering if the food would be worth eating? I and my learning disability (LD) teaching colleagues were hoping it would be so, but hope is very different to expectation and this day was no different. In fact it was not just a good day it was an excellent day, coordinated very effectively by Helen Laverty and Sue Edwards, and was a follow up to an earlier PLT Conference for LD practitioners within Lincolnshire.**

Some 40 practitioners from across Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire representing all placement areas attended and throughout the day were provided with update on each semester by the respective LD module convenors, preceded by an overview of the rationale for the changes eloquently presented by Bob Hallawell LD Team leader. As you would expect practitioners asked some telling questions, which (fortunately) we were able to answer but which also gave us other things to consider that had not been previously anticipated. However the most pleasing aspect was the outcomes that were generated from group work (dreaded by all at any Conference) during which module convenors gathered practitioners from their respective placements and discussed theory and practice content within the respective modules. This discussion was constructive and the congruence of topic areas between education and the various

service providers was particularly pleasing. This consensus should make the integration of theory and practice easier in the new curriculum.

The conference was also concerned with developing support systems in practice and David Charnock gave a presentation about the LD virtual practice learning team and how practitioners may engage with this sort of information

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/practice/vplt/ld/index.php](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing/practice/vplt/ld/index.php)

In addition, the day enabled us to produce 'module theory wish lists', plus a menu of insight visits we were hoping for. Two students also gave an excellent presentation titled 'Expectations of a Mentor. The Students Experience.'

Not only did this event bring practitioners from three counties together, it also provided the opportunity to celebrate a branch of nursing that is often seen, and represented, as a small minority within the wider family of nursing. This day was very much about Learning Disability nursing and importantly it was about determining the way forward to ensure this branch of nursing remains innovative and proactive with respect to both local service requirements and national agendas. We believe that we are at the beginning of a new era for LD practice and education; one that can see us at the forefront of excellence and which is crucially dependent on the continuation of the existing high levels of support and commitment from both learning disability nurses and learning disability services.

*Oh, for anyone who is interested, the food was excellent too!.....*



## NMCUpdates

All mentors please note. In August of this year, the NMC published the new 'Standard for the support of learning and assessment in practice'. This new standard has major implications for Mentors and can be found at:

[www.nmc-uk.org/0hszpr45wvu3w255fuu0uv55\)/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=2199](http://www.nmc-uk.org/0hszpr45wvu3w255fuu0uv55)/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=2199)

*More updates in the Mentors' Newsletter Spring 2007.*

# Winners of the Mentor Award 2006

Judging the mentor award was extremely difficult. We would have liked to have given all those nominated a prize but unfortunately, our funds do not stretch that far!

However, the University of Nottingham School of Nursing has again agreed to support an overall winner for the mentor award, PLUS a winner for each of the Centres. The results are as follows:

#### Overall winner

**Debbie O'Brien**, Community Nurse, Mansfield Woodhouse Health Centre who will receive £50 in book tokens, nominated by Tina Rogers Community Nurse who will receive £25 in book tokens.

#### Centre winners

**Derby: Angela Giddings**, Derby City General Hospital, ITU, nominated by Student Nurse Pete Johnson.

**Mansfield: Paula Ward**, Elms Villa, Rampton Hospital, nominated by Nurse Lorraine Murphy.

**Nottingham: Sam Seymour**, Hogarth Ward, Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, nominated by Clinical Educator, Pam Marriott.

**Lincoln: Karen Stephens**, Grace Swan District Nursing Team, nominated by Student Nurse Raymond North.

Each Centre winner will receive **£25 in book tokens**, their nominators will also receive book tokens to the value of **£10**.

Mentor  
Award  
2006

nominations received

<b>Alexandra Evans</b>	Risbury House, Notts.	<b>Kate McBurney</b>	Ward 20 DRI.
<b>Alicia Stewart</b>	D58 South Block, NUH.	<b>Kevin Harrison</b>	ITU, Pilgrim Hospital, Boston.
<b>Alison Wright &amp; Val &amp; Sue</b>	Bestwood Health Centre.	<b>Lizzie Wheeler</b>	Simpson 2, NUH.
<b>Amanda Richardson</b>	Ward 8, NUH.	<b>Mary Beckenham</b>	ICU, NUH.
<b>Andrew Pinder</b>	Children's Ward, Pilgrim Hospital, Lincs.	<b>Mary Jeebdun &amp; Denise Hanks</b>	Gloucester Ward, Skegness Hospital.
<b>Andy Akers</b>	Byron House, Newark.	<b>Melissa Watkins</b>	Fletcher Ward, NUH.
<b>Angela Giddings</b>	ITU, DCGH.	<b>Monica Chapman</b>	Morton Resource Ctr, Johns Gainsborough.
<b>Clare Goddard</b>	Lister 2, NUH.	<b>Nicola Bloore</b>	A&E, DRI.
<b>Dawn Browning</b>	Continuing Care, Sherwood.	<b>Nicola Clifford</b>	A&E, DRI.
<b>Debbie O'Brien</b>	Mansfield Woodhouse Health Centre, Notts. NUH.	<b>Pam Marriott</b>	Gastro Ward, NUH.
<b>Discharge Lounge Team</b>		<b>Paul Hanson</b>	Castle Ward, Lings Bar Hospital.
<b>Ellen Gittens</b>	Togill Ward, NUH.	<b>Paula Ward</b>	Elms Villa, Rampton.
<b>Emma Daws</b>	Simpson 2, NUH.	<b>Rachel Francis</b>	Ward 1, DRI.
<b>Giselle Trigg</b>	Bostonian Ward, Pilgrim Hospital, Lincs.	<b>Sam Seymour</b>	NUH.
<b>Helen Daynes</b>	Simpson 2, NUH.	<b>Sara Smith</b>	Ward C4, NUH.
<b>Helen Smith</b>	Neonatal Transport Nurse, NUH.	<b>Sharon Jolly</b>	11a Strokes Unit, Pilgrim Hospital, Boston.
<b>Helen States</b>	Neonatal Transport Nurse, NUH	<b>Sonia Francis</b>	Ward D57, NUH.
<b>Jane Briggingshaw</b>	Westside Surgery, Boston.	<b>Sophie Bush</b>	NUH.
<b>Jane Tabor</b>	Kings Mill Hospital, Mansfield.	<b>Steve Tarpay</b>	NUH.
<b>Jose Bueno</b>	Neonatal Transport Nurse, NUH.	<b>Surgical Short Stay Unit</b>	NCH. (2 nominations)
<b>Julia Grigg</b>	Ward 11a, Pilgrim Hospital, Boston.	<b>Suzie Magee</b>	MAU, Pilgrim Hospital, Boston.
<b>Julie Green</b>	Ward F19, NUH.	<b>Tracey Thurlby</b>	Ward 31, DCGH.
<b>Karen Stephens</b>	Grace Swan District Nurse Team, Spilsby.	<b>Vicky Burton</b>	Simpson 2, NUH.
		<b>Wendy Broderick</b>	Radcliffe on Trent Surgery, Notts.
		<b>Wendy Byford</b>	Ward 2, Grantham Hospital.



If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send your comments to:

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Or email them to  
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