Additional Practice Learning Experiences to Support Interprofessional Learning

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Background

The Nursing and Midwifery Council Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education (NMC, 2018) identifies requirements for a learning culture that is conducive to safe and effective learning where innovation, interprofessional learning and teamworking are embedded. This is reflected in Health Education and Improvement Wales identifying Interprofessional learning (IPL) experiences should be included within all professional programmes (HEIW, 2022).

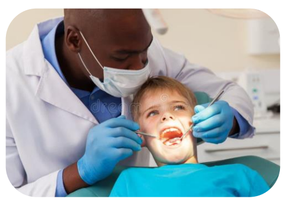
Within Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) the Practice Education Facilitator (PEF) team began seeking additional learning opportunities for student nurses that would meet these requirements for IPL and complement the current placement opportunities.

Method

In collaboration with Swansea University colleagues, placement learning opportunities were identified including;



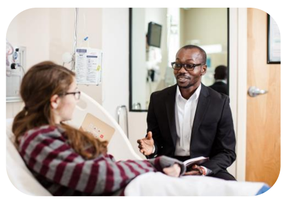
Surfability



GCG Dental Practice

Llamau Hillfort

Welsh Blood Service



Chaplaincy Service



Ysgol Heol Goffa



Jac-Y-Do Day Nursery

Llamau
Imagine a World Without Homelessness

Llamau Drws Agored

Some were specifically targeted as areas that had good IPL opportunities. Other placements were identified through more informal opportunistic exchanges, such as a conversation with Ben Clifford founder of Surfability at a university careers fair.

All areas were audited using a streamlined education audit process involving PEF, academic colleagues and placement area for quality assurance. Placements were then centrally allocated to student nurses by the university to attend as a 1–2-week additional practice learning experience.

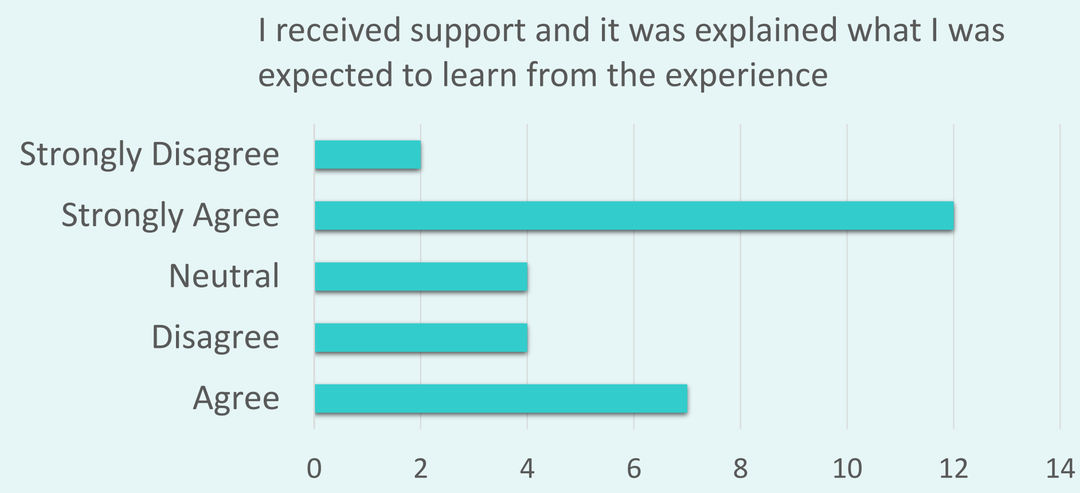
Evaluation and Future Development

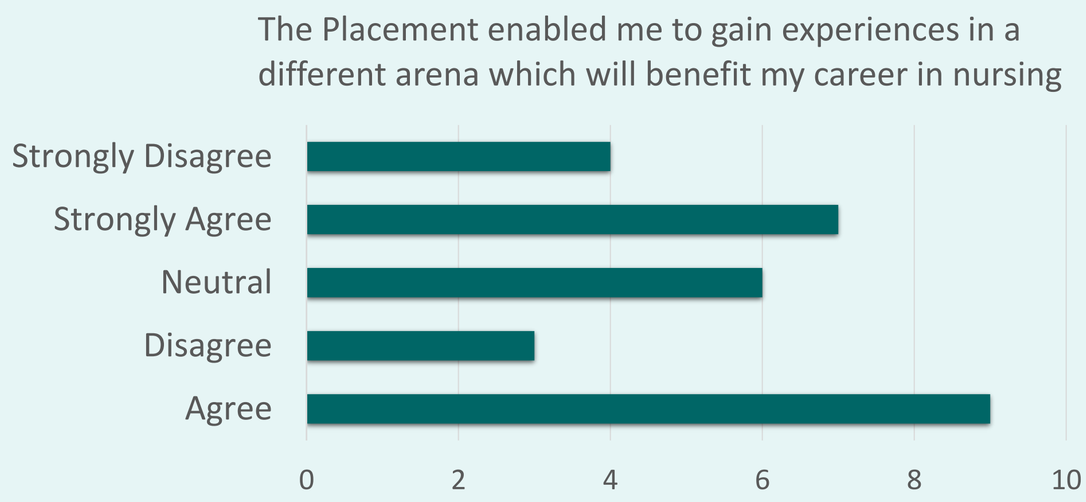
Students completed the All Wales Student Evaluation of Practice Learning Experiences at the end of the additional practice learning experience. Students ranked responses on a scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree. There were also open questions to allow more personalisation to responses. Both positive and negative themes were evident;

- ➕ Increased knowledge and skills.
- ➕ Aided their interprofessional collaboration skills.
- ➕ Gave an insight outside of their field of practice.

- ➖ Lack of understanding about IPL and its benefits.
- ➖ Students concerned there were no “nursing skills” to undertake.
- ➖ Staff unsure why student nurses were there.

Whilst some students could see the benefit of the IPL others struggled to identify how it related to their nurse training. Further education and support is needed for both the student nurses and the placement providers regarding the learning outcomes of IPL and its benefits to interprofessional collaboration and enhancing knowledge and skills.





Student Feedback



“ being able to engage in care outside of the hospital was fun, trying something different and seeing service users in their day to day lives engaging in activities to promote their health” **Surfability**

“It allowed me to understand how to behave around children who have behavioural and cognitive difficulties whilst caring for them.” **Ysgol Heol Goffa**

“I was a little apprehensive in the beginning as to how a dental practice would relate to adult nursing. The practice owner explained how to clean dentures and how dental plaque build-up can be related to many co-morbidities.” **GCG Dental Practice**

“It was beneficial to familiarise myself with the service and learn how early childhood experiences and the social determinants of health had impacted residents there. It will give me greater understanding when I come across similar in practice.” **Llamau Hillfort**

“The staff made sure we met the proficiencies they planned for us. It was helpful to interact with well children and see how they learn through play.” **Jac-Y-Do**

“The placement area gave me great insight into the negative impact that homelessness can have on service users’ mental health” **Llamau Drws Agored**



References: NMC, 2018. Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education. HEIW, 2022. All-Wales principles for interprofessional placement learning experiences.