

# O13

## INNOVATION IN EDUCATION - STUDENT PLACEMENTS IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

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### Background

Integration of Occupational Health(OH) into the NHS has previously been considered by Heron and Torrance. COVID-19 raised the profile of many working in the speciality and demonstrated the value of OH Professionals in supporting the required staffing levels. The NHS England People Plan also recognised the necessity of prioritising the safety and health of those working in the NHS. NHS England have set out a vision encapsulated in GrowOH.

### Aims

To establish physiotherapy and nursing placements in the OH-NHS service by:

- raising the profile of the department and specialism to improve recruitment
- increasing accessibility to best practice placements in OH
- enabling partnerships with educational institutions to generate interest in specialist training
- informing the mode and delivery of training for the future practice-based settings
- providing experience in workforce leadership, education and research.

### Methods

Undergraduate physiotherapy students have visited the OH department on placement for 3 years. An induction document was developed to support the student experience, including local induction information and supplementary guidance on what to expect during the 2-week period in the team. Opportunities to shadow the OH team including senior nurses, out-patient clinic nurses and physiotherapists were available.

### Results

Feedback from placements will be shared.

### Conclusion

A barrier to continuing to grow specialist expertise in OH is the decline in undergraduate curricula opportunities and 'hands on' clinical experience at undergraduate level. The use of undergraduate placements and shadowing experiences to promote growth of those wishing to access more expertise in the speciality is helpful.

### References:

1 Occupational health should be part of the NHS: integration would benefit people in and out of work, and the UK economy

Heron R Torrance I

British Medical Journal (BMJ 2017;357: j2334 doi: 10.1136/bmj. j2334

2 Expanding the strategic and clinical leadership role of accredited specialists

V Parsons, S Pattani, A Gilbey, I Madan, C Harling, R Muiry, A de Bono

Occupational Medicine, Volume 72, Issue 7, October 2022, Pages 456–461, <https://doi.org/10.1093/occmed/kqac064>

3 NHS England » NHS People Plan Published July 2020 accessed 20 th October 2022

4 Growing Occupational Health - NHS Health at Work Network Published July 2022 accessed 20 th October 2022

5 National School of Occupational Health | Health Education England East Midlands ([eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk](http://eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk))