

"Can mobile technology enhance the Placement learning experience - Offering effective support at a distance".

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"Can mobile technology enhance the placement learning experience -Offering effective support at a distance"

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Nicola West - Third Year BSc Applied Nursing (learning disabilities) and Social Work student

Key Terms

- Mentor- Registered Nurse who has undergone additional training to act as a supervisor to student nurses who are on placement.
- Practice setting- the placement area.
- Link Lecturer- academic who is associated with the placement, role to support students and mentors.

Aims and Objectives

Aim

- To develop innovative methods to increase communication between mentors students and lecturers whilst students are on placement.

Objectives

- Increase communication between all parties
- Reduce physical visits, reducing impact on time for all
- Increase accessibility to academic support for both students and mentors.

link to Googlehangouts

- example of how it works
- what we need to say:
- *introduce selves on video call: name role etc*
- *Sarah Becca then Nicki*
- *Sarah to say we wanted to give you an example of what a hangout looks like.*
- *Becca: as you can see Google Hangouts is a communication platform a hangout allows a conversation to take place between two or more users.*
- *Nicki : hangouts can take place using a range of formats: instant messaging, video chat, Short Messaging Service (SMS) and Voice Over Internet Protocols (VOIP) calling features.*

Sarah end by asking you to join

Project Outline

- **Google hangouts** has been explored as a tool to enable interactive communications between students, academic advisors and Nurse Mentors, particularly for placements further afield.
- Research literature and previous student and mentor evaluations, suggest interaction with University Link lecturers is beneficial to the practice learning experience, which can be difficult to facilitate (Andrews 2006)
- Learning Disability Practice is an ever changing service landscape, as a result of the drive for better community based support under *Building the Right Support* (Great Britain, DoH,(2015)
- Placements are becoming more diverse; covering a wider geographical area.

Project Design

- Over 20 weeks February- July 2016
- Year 3 integrated placement, 1 Student, 1 Nurse Mentor and 1 Link Lecturer.
- Mentor and student identified based on distance to placement area. Approximately 29 miles from Sheffield Hallam Collegiate Campus.
- Initial meeting face to face to establish boundaries of use and set up.
- Regular call meetings agreed with all parties.
- Collaborative evaluation between all participants.

Perceived Benefits

" More effective use of academic time and resources "

" The instant messenger service it provides is equally as useful as the video calling, I am able to send a message if I have any issues/questions or to arrange a video call. "

"The ease of quick access to link lecturer, which if I had to contact the university via original methods I would have possibly have postponed due to working shifts etc."

"The ability to contact a student when working on a different shift rotation, to ensure all support is provided and appropriate work load provided.
I was able to do so, with the instant message service in addition to video calling without providing my personal details,"

"Easy to maintain contact more regularly with both students and mentors , due to mobile nature"

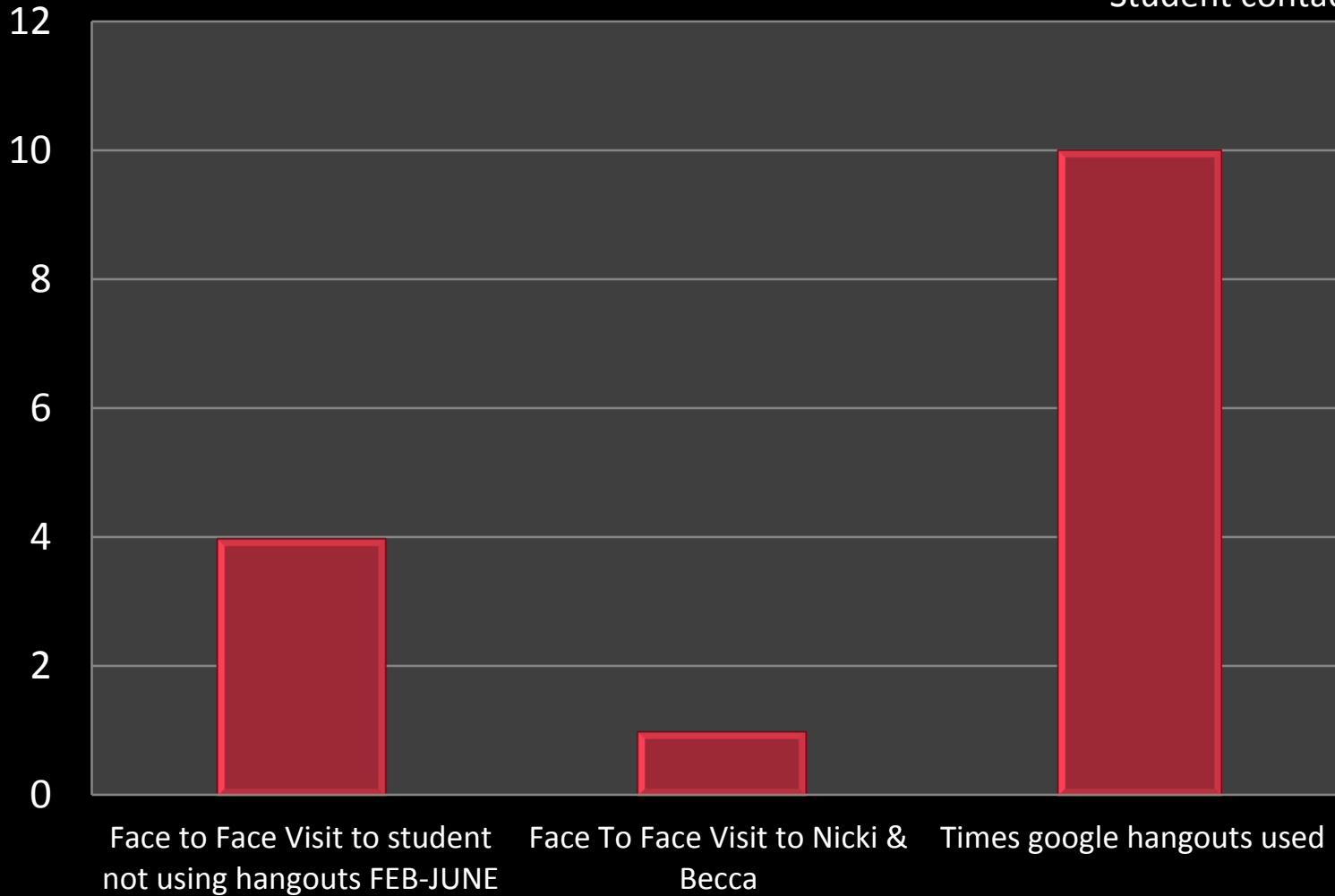
"It allows me to have regular easy to access contact with both my mentor and my link lecturer"

"Although you can access email/gmail on your phone via an app, google hangouts feels less formal compared to writing emails. Making it feel like a more approachable way to have discussions. Also it allows a three way conversation"

" Collaborative supervision. This has previously been logistically difficult due to the placement area being a considerable distance from the University.

"Effective management of unplanned support so when issues have arisen for both student and mentor"

■ Link Lecturer/ Mentor/
Student contact



Issues experienced and Identified

- **Reservations for utilising this for clinical supervision purposes, and discussing caseloads with specific details in case any conversation may be reordered, or overheard.**
- **Due to working within a forensic secure service we haven't been able to utilise this on site, due to restrictions on the internet use.**
- **Risk of providing additional support within free time.**
- **Weak connection when poor signal making conversations disjointed**
- **Potential lack of confidence using technology could lead to need to train all parties prior.**

Was it Effective?

"Yes, particularly placements further away from the University who may struggle to receive link lecturer support. This has been identified as an area of concern for our placement previously and this has improved our ability to support a student."

Rebecca Sanderson

"Yes. Over the three years whilst studying my course it has often been difficult to arrange meetings whilst on placement due to the times we have been available and travel time to all be in the same place. To address this google hangouts allows a three/four way video call so we can have the initial/midway placement meeting without having delays. It is additionally useful if you just need a quick chat to discuss any queries or concerns. "

Nicola West

Future Development

- Use highlighted at mentor conference via poster with view to begin linking with other practice setting.
- Collaborative development of online training resource which also highlights benefits of using Technology to enhance learning experiences.
- Collaborative development of statement of agreement of use.. i.e. times scope etc.
- Expansion into other ANSW placements and carry out re evaluation, working collaboratively with a wide range of students and mentors.
- To identify practice areas based on access to internet, and work with those with restrictions to enable access.

References

- **Andrews. G et al(2006)** Professional roles and communications in clinical placements: A qualitative study of nursing students' perceptions and some models for practice, *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, Volume 43, Issue 7, 861-874,
- **Great Britain, DoH(2015)** Building the right support: A national implementation plan to develop community services and close inpatient facilities. Department of Health. Great Britain