Children's Therapy Centre: Case Study

Title: Visual Resources to support meeting clinical practice requirements

Theme: Work Placements

Key Words: Visual representation; Flowcharts

Introduction

Clinical practice placements are a vital component of psychotherapy training and CTC places great emphasis on supporting students to identify and work within suitable placements to fulfil both professional and academic requirements.

Comprehensive Placement Handbooks are provided to support students, clinical supervisors and placement sites. Each year these are reviewed to ensure the information is up to date. Dialogue and the sharing of information between students, clinical supervisors and placement managers is highly valued and carefully monitored and we aim to address, efficiently and effectively, any issues that arise.

The problem identified and how we addressed it.

At the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, CTC considered feedback received both from supervisors and students which pointed towards the need for extra clarity regarding the detailed requirements and sequencing of the clinical practice placements. The type of queries indicated that we could provide more accessible information to all involved. We noted that our information was only presented in written form and did not include visual representations to support understanding and graphic presentation of key information.

To address this, the Clinical Supervision Coordinator set about creating a series of simplified quick reference flowcharts based on placement requirements at each stage of training. Creating concise bullet points was challenging as there is a lot of information to be imparted and each stage of practicum has different requirements. However, remembering that these flow charts would be a quick reference guide, complementing but not replacing the Placement Handbook, alleviated pressure to have all information on the flowcharts. The focus became making key aspects of information regarding sequence and timing quickly accessible. The visual charts were completed prior to the 2022 - 2023 academic year beginning and were made available to all relevant parties and stakeholders. These flowcharts are available to students on the Moodle online learning platform alongside the relevant Placement Handbooks.

Conclusion

The Clinical Supervision Coordinator has noted that there have been a reduction in queries surrounding practice matters than in the previous academic year. Many of the clinical supervisors have noted the usefulness of the flowcharts and welcome the efficiency of redirecting students to these quick reference guides.

This solution-based approach to responding to feedback meets CTC's commitment to resourcing students' independent learning. It also raised our awareness of the value of paying attention to *how* we present information so as to meet students' diverse learning needs.

Forward Planning

We decided that key staff would attend the Universal Design for Learning Digital Badge training in 2022-23 so that we can continue to explore creative ways to make information accessible and supportive for our students' various learning needs. By empowering the students in accessing the information they need CTC aims to grow the student's confidence and capacity for self-directed learning and resourcefulness.