PROCESS AND OUTCOMES OF THE CAMHS MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE – REPORT AND REFLECTIONS ON THE WAYS IN WHICH CLINICIANS CAN BE INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY

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Aims This session will describe the process by which the CAMHS Ministerial Taskforce was set up and the process of its work, with a recap of the outcomes/recommendations coming from that process. The presentation will also allow some reflections on the political process of policy development and how clinicians can be involved in fostering evidence-based policy in healthcare.

Methods The political background to the process and the ways in which the taskforce worked will be described, along with the outcomes and likely impact on practice.

Results The taskforce will have reported by the time of this session. The challenge is equally worth consideration. The political process and set up will be examined, and whether there are other ways in which this can be improved for the future, leading to more evidence-based policies and less anecdotal-based, or politically-based policies within healthcare.

Conclusions This session will argue for nurses in particular to have a better voice in the development of evidence-based policies for healthcare. It will look at how all healthcare professionals currently influence policy development and look for ways to improve this process.

AN EVALUATION OF A COMPLEX SIMULATED CLINICAL SHIFT SCENARIO WITH FINAL YEAR UNDERGRADUATE CHILDREN’S NURSING STUDENTS

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Background The last decade has witnessed the emergence of simulation as a useful, but sometimes challenging teaching methodology. This is supported by a number of sources of evidence, which focus strongly upon student evaluation of the learning experience. The challenges are equally worth consideration. These include issues such as the commissioning of space and staff expertise in resourcing and creating a situation which is as close to real practice as possible.

Aims To explore the use of a complex simulated scenario with third year children’s nursing students.

To share the process of educational evaluation that was undertaken.

To share the results of this educational intervention.

Methods Children’s nursing students were exposed to a complex simulated clinical shift. The activities included: managing the clinical area; the transfer of a sick child; managing a medication error; subsequent discussion with the parents; and prioritising and organising care. The use of role-play was utilised throughout, to create a realistic experience and the simulation activity took place in two settings to enable the transfer of a child from one clinical area (the assessment unit) area to another (the ward).

The simulation experience was undertaken at the end of the third year undergraduate program by three cohorts of students (n = 41). Following the experience, data were collected through a post-simulation de-briefing and a Likert style questionnaire, enabling the collection of qualitative and quantitative evaluation data concerned with the student’s experience of the simulation.

Results and conclusion Overwhelmingly, the results showed that this was a positive experience for the students, demonstrating a number of perceived improvements in the application of their clinical skills. These included: development of specific management skills; enhanced confidence; development of self-awareness; and the transferability of skills to practice. Students also demonstrated strong agreement in terms of the realism of the experience.
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