Primary Care has rich soil: growing a future workforce through role emerging placements

Truman J, ¹ Chamberlain E ², Pike A ³

Bournemouth University, United Kingdom ¹
GP Education Unit, University Hospital Southampton ²
Physiotherapy Department, Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust ³
1. Offer contextual information
2. Describe how role emerging placements have demonstrated meaningful outcomes for individuals, students & primary care practitioners
3. Consider the ‘added value’ of OT
4. Facilitators and barriers of using student placements
Setting the context

- A sector in crisis
- Retention and recruitment of GPs
- Increasing demands
- Financial pressure
- In need of innovative solution / diversify the workforce

Solutions

- Integration of physical and mental health needs (Naylor et al 2016)
- Advanced practitioner roles
- New roles – physician associates
- Use of AHPs
- OTs could:
  - Reduce pressure on GPs
  - Reduce referrals to secondary care
  - Keep people independent at home (Brooks et al 2017)
- More than this – keep them engaged!
Our added value & fit with Primary Care

- Life-long approach
- Holistic approach
- Health and social care
- Health promotion, prevention, rehabilitation and maintenance
- Non medical perspective
- Context
The right conditions

- No local OTs
- Limited national programmes
- Little GP awareness / myths
- Scope and competency
The right conditions for a role emerging placement

• **The Gardener** – a HEI willing to take the risk and plant the seed

• **The Seed** – finding the right student

• **The Soil** – finding the right PPEs

• **The Roots** – establishing them via CEPN/ training hubs

• **The Climate** – GP colleagues & practices

• **The linguist** – GP Fellow
and water

• Courage
• Enthusiasm
• Interest
• Motivation
New Blooms

- x3 GP Practices
- X1 GP Federation Project
- x1 Interface with Emergency care / community rehab team

(Chamberlain et al 2018, 2019 accepted for publication)
As a learning environment

• Offers diversity to student
• Holistic approach a reality
• Career option – exposure to a little known setting
• Recruitment
• Team working
• Preparing for real work
Student outcomes

- Facilitated decision making
- Autonomy
- Communication skills
- Confidence
- Developed sense of professional identity
- Occupational perspectives – our added value
- Opportunities for consolidation
Primary Care Practitioner
Outcomes

• Understanding the OT role - It’s a much bigger role
• Dealing with social issues (the wider remit)
• Deeper rooted issues
• Learning difficulty, frailty, mental health
• Time saving – home visits
• Cooking in a care home enhancing well being & health
• Sleep hygiene to enhance occupational performance
• Reducing social isolation reducing
• Creative projects (Animation) – validating life events to promote engagement
Barriers- things to that can make the flowers wilt

- Indemnity
- PPE support
- Costs – supervision
- Business model – space / costs
- Scope and competency
- Isolation
Facilitators – what made our flowers bloom

- Risk takers
- Supervision team
- Practice Managers
- HEE/CEPN support
- Right language
- Articulate our skills & unique approach – how to do it differently
- Money
In summary

‘a good way of doing it and I think we should do it with other roles and other allied healthcare professionals. I think it is a really good way of testing the waters in general practice’ (ansp 228-236)
In summary

‘People that we know come to see us frequently, being able to try to get behind some of the issues because in a ten or fifteen minute consultation you can only just skate around some of the issues and I found she [OT student] was able to get much deeper into some of the root causes that some of the people have; social and psychological. It’s not the medicine that’s complicated, it’s the other bit.’ [GP]
Our Challenge

‘How can we encourage commissioners to see this as a real asset and worth investing in because the problem at the moment is that, we may be able to fund an OT one day a week using local improvement scheme but actually how do we develop this within care funding. And that’s a long journey …’ (DP 105-109)
References


• Chamberlain E, Truman J, Pike A, Scallan S and Lyon-Maris (2019) Occupational Therapy in Primary Care: Exploring the role of OT from a primary care perspective. British Journal of General Practice [accepted for publication]


Contact

Dr Juliette Truman

jtruman@Bournemouth.ac.uk