**Notes from the ASYE Best Practice Forum – 13.5.21**

This Best Practice Forum (BPF) was attended by 68 people. See attendance sheet below.



Because of COVID-19, this forum was run as a webinar for a shorter time from 10:30-12:00.

**Updates from Skills for Care** (see detail in slides below)

Selena Docherty opened the forum and introduced co-facilitators Marianne Davis and Laura Anthony. Selena also made an introduction to Lena Cox who is our new Locality Coordinator and will be supporting future forums.



In the chat requests from the group relating to the updates included

* There was a question about when the adults portal is due to open this year and some thought it was the summer. Selena to check on the exact month and get back to the group.
* There was also a question about whether the ASYE refresh group included a representative from the voluntary sector. Selena will get back to the group.
* There was also a comment about the disparity of the funding amounts between childrens and adults ASYE which has been raised on a number of occasions. Selena confirmed that this is up to the DHSC and not a decision that is made at SFC level.
* There was a question about whether the 360 tool would be refreshed. This will not be refreshed alongside the ASYE docs.

**Break out group discussion summary**.

Breakout rooms consisted of 10 per room and the questions that were asked were:

Q: What were the key highlights from the ASYE National events held in March 21.

Q: What would coordinators like to see at the next set of events being planned for the Autumn.

Participants were also asked to consider any questions for Social Work England who would be speaking later in the session.

**Feedback after discussions included the following points:**

The event clashed with one that was being run by Social Work England – please can future dates be checked to ensure there’s nothing else happening the same day

It was very noticeable that there’s been a shift in language – and very much an increased focus on equality, inclusivity, and anti-racist social work practice

topics that it would be useful to cover at the autumn event include the spread of misinformation and the role that social media plays in this, and how to manage situations when failing NQSWs move to a different employer to finish their ASYE. It was suggested that it’d be useful to run an event with HEIs around failure to pass the ASYE – students who have just completed a social work degree shouldn’t be struggling. Another suggestion was unconscious and conscious bias – it’s felt that a high number of BAME NQSWs have been negatively affected by this (and that this applies to social work practice more generally, not just NQSWs)

There was a query about what can be done to support those who aren’t able to obtain an NQSW position and therefore complete the ASYE – what can be done to help them keep their practice up to date?

A session on experiences of using the 360-degree tool in adults services – as well as outcomes and learning from the QA visits – would be useful

Autumn Events

Combatting misinformation, preventing vulnerable people being targeted, use of social media and guidance on practice

It was asked if there could be a focus and revisit on ethical dilemmas of people leaving their ASYE programme just before the end and moving onto another employer or an agency, due to the fact that they could be looking at failing their ASYE.

**NQSW and assessor forums**

Very positive feedback has been received about the NQSW forum – NQSWs reported that they enjoyed being part of a network and that it has made them feel less alone

Some NQSWs reported technical issues which prevented them from attending

Nicola confirmed that the assessor forum is also open to independent assessors. People who aren’t currently in an assessor role but who are planning to shortly undertake this work are also welcome

**Social Work England**

Julie Campbell - Regional Engagement Lead London and Rebecca Mulvaney - Education and Quality Assurance lead

This was an open session so just the few slides embedded in the general forum slides.

Julie stressed the importance of social workers recording their CPD (including CPD outside of training) throughout the year

She also thanked everyone on the call for all the work that they and the social workers they support have been doing throughout the pandemic

Rebecca Mulvaney who’s one of the Education QA officers at SWE joined the call and introduced herself to the group

A question was asked about whether there’s any good examples of social worker CPD which can be shared. Julie responded that once the current validation exercise has been completed some examples will be shared from this. The examples currently on the website will be updated – and will hopefully include some from NQSWs

There was also a question about what happens when failed social workers are referred to SWE. Julie advised that the guidance on this had been updated and that the link will be sent to Selena to circulate. It was also advised that national FtP workshops are currently running. Anyone concerned about whether a situation is a fitness to practice issue or not should call either Julie or Kate. Julie is to speak to colleagues about possible guidance around referring failing NQSWs

A request was made for the reregistration criteria for returners to social work to be revisited – they are at a disadvantage due to not having opportunities for supervised practice

There was a discussion about how it’s good practice to assign a mentor or buddy (that’s not the assessor) to NQSWs

There was a query about what SWE is doing to raise the profile of the sector – there’s been a significant increase in interest in nursing as a result of the pandemic, but it’s felt that social work hasn’t capitalised on this quite as much. More work is needed to keep attracting younger people to the profession. Julie said that she’d be keen to talk about options for this at a future forum

1. **Future meetings**

The next meeting will take place in early September. Selena was not 100% sure if this would be face to face or virtual so will prepare for both and let everyone know in plenty of time. The date will be confirmed in the Social Work Briefing.