**School of Healthcare**

**Hub and Spoke/Alternative Placement Model**

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2010) *Standards for Pre-Registration Nursing Education*, and *Advice and Supporting Information for Implementing NMC Standards for Pre-Registration Nursing Education* (NMC 2011), advise that nursing students’ practice learning experiences should be flexible and reflect current healthcare provision in hospital and community areas. The input of voluntary sector organisations into programmes is recommended to ensure nurses are prepared for the entire spectrum of care (NMC 2011). To maximise available opportunities for students, the nursing programme at the School of Healthcare has chosen to adopt a hub and spoke placement model. This will enable students to fully access the practice placement potential within our locality. Student will gain experiences of working in multifaceted care settings which may not otherwise be accessible to students as a long placement. This type of placement model will add breadth and enable students to work with others making full use of practice environments where service user’s access care (i.e., statutory health and social care provision, private, independent and voluntary services).

The term ‘Hub and Spoke’ refers to a practice-learning format in which the Hub is defined as the practice area where the mentor is based and the Spoke as the secondary or alternative placement experience.

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**Hub Placement**:

This is the student’s main placement base. Students will be allocated a Mentor (see guidance on mentorship requirements in Practice Assessment Documents) (PAD) who will support and supervise their learning. The Mentor will undertake the assessment on this placement. The Mentor is accountable for assessment with due regard) and for confirming the student’s overall proficiency (or not) at the end of the placement. All parts of the PAD must be completed in accordance with the Programme guidelines and checklists. Students must completed a Placement Evaluation on the Healthcareplacements.co.uk website at the end of this placement and the certificate of completion must be submitted with the PAD.

**Spoke Placement**:

Within the scope of the student’s allocated long placement, they will have a planned shorter ‘spoke’ or ‘alternative’ placement experience. This placement will be 2-4 weeks in length and maybe formatively assessed or observational. This placement will add breadth to the student’s experiences and enabling them to work with service users in different settings in order to access a range of shorter placement opportunities. The spoke or alternative placement experience will be overseen by an appropriately appointed professional.

There is the expectation that the ‘Hub Mentor’ and ‘Spoke professional’ will communicate with each other regarding the student progress. On the ‘spoke’, students will need to complete the ‘Orientation to the Placement’ page and they may have skills ‘Signed as Achieved’ by a registered practitioner in accordance with the guidelines in the OAR. Students must also complete a ‘Record of Alternative Placement Experience’ to document their learning within the PAD and a Placement Evaluation on Healthcareplacements.co.uk website for the spoke placement. Any difficulties encountered during this placement the student or appropriately appointed professional should contact both the ‘Hub Mentor’ and the student’s Personal Tutor or Liaison Lecturer (details of which are available on SPARC or email PPU) to discuss.

**Concerns Re: Student Achievement**

If concerns are raised by the Mentor relating to student progress and achievement on the Hub and/or Spoke placement, the Mentor or appropriately appointed professional will need to discuss their concerns with the student and contact the Personal Tutor and/or Liaison Lecturer or Programme Lead. In situations where a student is not achieving, the Spoke placement may be withdrawn and the student will remain under the supervision of the Mentor on the Hub placement.

Julia Turner

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