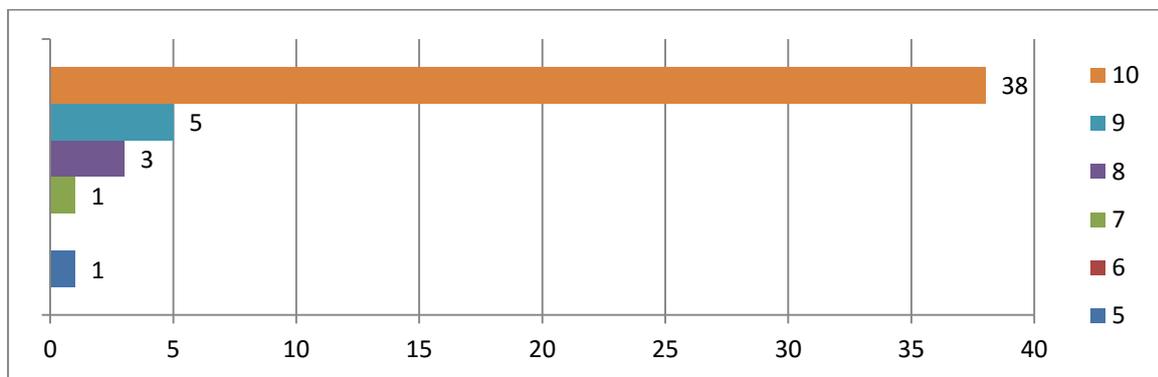


## Evaluation Summary - Practice Educator Masterclass

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 a Teaching Partnership masterclass was held for Practice Educators. The event was titled: 'The Placement Journey with Siobhan Maclean: Creative Tools and Reflective Technique to use with Students'. It was well attended with 73 participants in total at the event. We received evaluation from 48 participants; the event was very well received with extremely positive feedback.

### Event Evaluation

Participants were asked to score the event 1-10 with 10 being extremely useful. The majority of attendees found the event extremely useful and the lowest score was a 5 even though comments on the form were very positive.



Participants were then asked what they have learnt and what they will do differently as a result. There were some common themes with participants finding the models and analogies really useful. They commented on the SHARE, Weather and SMART models and Planning the Journey for Students. Several commented on self care for themselves and students. Many mentioned they were going to use the visual aids like postcards to start discussions in supervision and were going to explore how they can be more creative in their thinking and reflective practice. Attendees were very enthused with all the ways they can support students and many commenting on it giving them pride in their profession. The speaker and the event received very good feedback:

*"Such a creative person. Thank you. Most inspiring day of training in social work I think I have ever had."*

*"Lots of ways to support students (and me!) to develop skills, resilience and creativity."*

*"It was so refreshing to hear of techniques that are so different from what I've used before"*

*"Very inspirational. Siobhan is a fantastic presenter – very engaging, relevant and experienced."*

*"Reflection for myself and with the student. Plan supervision in a different way, postcards, journey of the student, break it down and make it more fun."*

*"Remember why I became a social worker and talk about this to students/ASYEs"*

*“Use practical tools in supervision, focus more on student’s journey, enable stress management plan with student, use more pictorial references to enable student to express themselves and better enable a shared understanding of their journey.”*

### Future Events

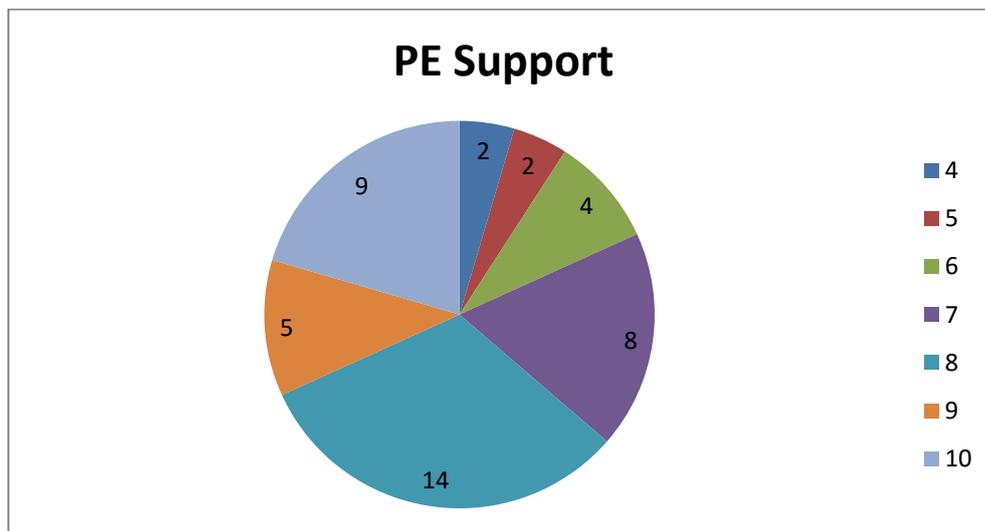
The participants were then asked about future Teaching Partnership masterclasses and all were interested in attending future sessions.

There were common themes in the topics they requested which are listed below in order of the most requested to the least:-

- Bringing Theory into Practice
- Dealing with difficulties. *Examples included: difficulties on placement, difficult conversations and providing feedback, struggling students, failing students, it was clear they all link together.*
- Effective Supervision
- PCFs
- SHARE Theory
- Report writing/gathering evidence.

### Practice Educator Support & Impact of PEC Role

Participants were then asked about the support they currently receive scoring it from 1-10 with 10 being very well supported. Only a couple of participants did not enter a score. Whilst the scores did not go below 4 it was clear there is mixed levels of support.



The comments on the types of support are mainly very positive with the majority of comments about the new Practice Educator Consultant (PEC) role introduced by the Teaching Partnership and also the similar role they have at North Yorkshire County Council. Respondents felt that they have received more support since the PECs have been in place. They receive regular contact and have

contact details so can ask for advice if needed. Many others found the peer support groups useful. Comments were made that as this is a new role it is still developing but so far is very supportive.

Many others mentioned support from other PEs in their team and also managers. However there were some negative comments in relation to managers not understanding, especially when they are not trained social workers.

Participants were asked what additional support they would like to receive, considering their own learning. There were mixed responses to this. Listed below are a variety of the requests:-

- Ongoing support from PECs
- More learning opportunities especially ones like this event
- CPD events
- PE toolkit and access to resources, books and research
- Support Groups
- More university input
- Update sessions
- Reduced case loads

### **Challenges**

Participants were then asked what the biggest challenge they face as a practice educator. There were very strong common themes in the responses. The majority all relating to time in one form or another with the most common listed in order below:-

- Managing their own case/work load with the needs of the student. Many wanting a reduced case/work load or adaptations when students are placed.
- Time needed for writing reports or completing course work (PE students).
- Planning and carrying out supervisions.

Other challenges were around staying positive in the face of organisational changes. Some had concerns about providing the best placement experience possible and making it enjoyable for the students. A few commented on managers recognising the time needed for quality support and good practice. A few also referred to team support or team placements or creating a team for a student where they are agile workers.

A full collation of evaluation comments is available through emailing Alison Frith [AlisonA.Firth@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:AlisonA.Firth@calderdale.gov.uk)

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**January 2018**