

DEVELOPING CLINICAL ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS: THE SOUTHWEST CLINICAL SCHOOL MODEL

Background

Research active hospitals with staff engaged in research have better patient outcomes, including patient confidence in care (1,2). The current health care labour crisis demands innovative and transformational strategies to retain and develop the nursing and midwifery workforce (5). NHS England has introduced a variety of policy imperatives to support nurses and midwives to pursue clinical academic careers (3,4). The implementation of these policies has resulted in local models to drive nursing and midwifery led research, which are largely under-researched in terms of how they have been implemented and their impact on workforce and patientcare.

Aim(s)

1) To illustrate the implementation of the local Southwest Clinical School (SWCS) Model, which consists of a partnership between the University of Plymouth and health and social care systems in the Southwest Peninsula of England. 2) To Demonstrate the importance of SWCS as a driver for developing nurse and midwifery led research, clinical academic pathways and mobilizing a research culture to improve practice.

Methods

The SWCS began in 2014 as a partnership between the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Plymouth and five acute hospitals and one integrated acute community and social care organization. A Nursing or Midwifery Professor, linked to each area, spends at least one day a week supporting the Chief Nurse's research strategy. There are a cadre of clinical fellows in each organization with time and/or funding to support the SWCS. Each partnership is working to respond to local need but there is also a consolidated strategic development across the whole. Stakeholder engagement with nursing, midwifery and research leaders and a co-produced approach has been key. Ongoing evaluation of interventions and impact will be presented across six themes.

Results

The six themes include: supporting/ mentoring developing and funding Clinical Academics; formalising relationships between the University and Hospitals, community and social care; working with local priorities (such as workforce issues, quality improvement, research relevant to the local need); developing mechanisms to support and engage the workforce; embedding knowledge exchange and dissemination; measuring local and wider impact.

Discussion

The SWCS demonstrates the local impact of implementing a national policy aimed at driving nursing and midwifery research in health and social care and developing the skills and retention of the workforce. It is a partnership aiming to meet the needs of the local area across the whole system, including hospitals, spices and care homes. Increasingly allied health professions support wider regional work with a drive to embed research into everyday nursing and midwifery care.

Implications and future perspectives

A research environment that empowers nurses and midwives to lead, participate in and deliver research, enriches the profession, supports practice and decision making, for the benefit of patients and the wider public (3). The SWCS Model is an example of the impact of driving research across a local area and has implications regionally, nationally and internationally in the development of the nursing and midwifery workforce as the drivers of change in challenged and complex health and social care.

References

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