Technology enabled care placements (Virtual placements)

Katherine Sellens from Nottingham University completed her B placement at MPFT and followed this style of placement.

Placement overview:

Benefits:

* Learners can get a lot more opportunities to see patients especially in a community setting as travelling times does not have to be factored in
* more opportunities available as dietitians do not need to be geographically close to each other to provide supervision on the same day

Challenges:

* can be isolating
* can be more difficult for learners to become integrated into the team

Lessons learnt:

* This is still a new way of working for learners, us and patients, telephone clinics take different skills to face to face clinics support learners by demonstrating how you would deal with a telephone clinic
* Have a troubleshooting plan – what to do if you have issues with WiFi this ensures that learners (and you) are not phased if something does not go to plan – always have a back up plan
* Learners learn a lot by observing your actions, this is more limited on a virtual platform as you often perform tasks they can’t see
* Pastoral side is more important on a solely virtual placement

Top tips:

* Provide learners with a checklist of actions
* Have Peer Assisted Learning activities that learners can be directed to as needed
* Learners do not have to be present at every consultation, give them time to reflect post calls it is about quality rather than quantity
* Have how to guides / SOPs available that learners can refer to, if they can’t see you doing a task how do they know it needs doing?
* Try and include some social time for learners to have a chance to experience office chat albeit on a virtual platform