BACKGROUND

Nurses are traditionally a ‘hard to reach’ group and we wanted to improve their engagement with library services. They work on the front line, are manacled by shift work and struggle to get time off during shifts to access the service. In fact, we don’t usually see them unless they are doing an academic course or research and really need us.

Revalidation is now a BIG deal since it was revamped in April 2016 and an article published last year in the Nursing Times (Collins, 2015) about reflective reading got us thinking...

Could the Library provide a reflective reading club (RRC) service for revalidating nurses at the Trust? And if we invited them, would they come?

IMPLEMENTATION

What the Reading Club provides
Preparatory reading and attendance at the club earns attendees three hours of CPD. Maximum of two sessions per person.

The nursing directorate select all the articles that we read. In this way articles are chosen for nurses by nurses, they align the articles to the Trust’s aims and values as well as tying into the Nursing code of conduct.

Reflection
Articles are selected for the purpose of reflecting on the subject matter; we are not critically appraising. We use a small checklist of reflective questions taken from the themes discussed in the Nursing Times article and use them to guide us through the process of discussion. The themes are Searching, Reviewing, Linking and Action (Fig 1, Collins, 2015).

Marketing
The nursing directorate actively champions the reading club as well as providing us with a list of all the nurses revalidating to whom we send targeted emails. We also advertise the club with a trust-wide screensaver, posters in staff rooms, a bi-monthly newsletter and on Twitter.

RESULTS

Interest
We’ve been running the RRC every month since January this year and sessions are always over-subscribed with a maximum of 12 attendees per session.

Reflection in practice
Every session concludes with each attendee considering an action point that they can take away as a result of their reflection. From our feedback we have seen that this is making a real difference to their work and practice, with action points including awareness posters, attending safeguarding meetings, talking to managers to implement ideas and sharing the article from the session with colleagues in afternoon reading clubs.

Opening minds
We have found an unexpected benefit of the reading club is that it brings together nurses who specialise in different areas, which further helps them to reflect on and think about new ideas and differing professional perspectives.

Library awareness
The reading club has been a fantastic opportunity for us to increase awareness of library services amongst nurses. Many were previously unaware of our existence and over the last 11 months, 37 RRC attendees have signed up for library services.

THE FUTURE

1. Continue with monthly reading clubs and improve sign-up retention by sending reminder emails a week before each club.
2. Target our marketing strategy towards nurses in community locations away from the hospital site.
3. Begin a RRC for nurses at another NHS Trust we support.
4. Investigate the RRC becoming an embedded Trust programme at Whittington Health.

REFERENCES

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Harriet Croston, Heather McGuigan, Richard Peacock, Adam Tocock, Catherine Wardle

@WhitHealthLib