

Mental Health News

Graduate Diploma in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Practice

The Mental Health News e-bulletin is a daily bulletin issued by the Mental Health Improvement Programme (MHIP) containing an item relating to a Mental Health issue, development or outcome in the North West.

The aim is to bring awareness to our stakeholders about service improvement and innovative projects underway in Mental Health across the North West, and to encourage you (the reader) to act as vehicle for ensuring that you or your organisation is engaged with the work where applicable.

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Student enthusiasm, diversity and practise 'has a very strong voice on the course' both of which are 'bringing together people with a common aim to improve Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.'

NHS North West commissioned an evaluation of the outcomes and impact on service of the Graduate Diploma in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Practice which was funded by the NHS at the University of Central Lancashire. The evaluation was carried out on behalf of the NHS North West by an external organisation (HERC Associates). Past and present students, course lecturers at UCLan, managers of children's services, and previous and current course commissioners participated in the evaluation.

Overall the report gave very positive findings and demonstrated that the course is a valued educational programme overall and should be continued. It also showed that the course is evolving and improving year on year and that there is evidence that the Diploma is increasing the knowledge of the workforce and is encouraging service innovation.

Informal networks set up by past and present students are helping to spread good practice across the North West and managers in CAMHS and other universal children's services believe the Diploma is helping to deliver a workforce with the right skills and knowledge. In addition the course leader is described consistently as 'excellent'.

There were also some challenges for the programme including how it might strengthen work between agencies and how students might be helped to further develop their education and training. There is also a need to encourage sharing of the good practice that students bring to the course.

For more information about the evaluation contact neil.mclauchlan@northwest.nhs.uk or kerry.hemsworth@northwest.nhs.uk

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