Leeds Health and Care Academy

PIVO PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE: A LEARNER PERSEPCTIVE

SAM MURPHY, 3RD YEAR PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENT AT LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

Sam has undertaken two placements, one with Wakefield Trinity Rugby League Club and one with Connect Health (North Kirklees). These placements were chosen due to his interest in sport and his interest in Musculoskeletal (MSK) physiotherapy.

EXPERIENCE

Throughout both placements Sam had positive experiences, which included:

- There were regular opportunities to learn from other practitioners in both placements, such Advanced Physiotherapy Practitioners, Doctors, and Strength and Condition Coaches. At Wakefield Trinity, this gave Sam an opportunity to learn about the different approaches to rehabilitation, recovery and exercises.
- Both teams were really welcoming and Sam was made to feel part of the teams straight away.
- There were opportunities to confer with colleagues and get second opinions, Sam felt really comfortable saying to patients at Connect Health "Please bear with me while I consult with a colleague."
- Connect Health kept to scheduled diaries and allocated time slots for breaks or completing notes.

LEARNING

The placements were in different parts of the West Yorkshire region, but both provided opportunities to learn:

- Connect Health was situated in an area where literacy rates can be quite low. Sam learnt the importance of language and how to tailor it to the patient to ensure they understood what was being said or diagnosed. Through this experience, Sam recognised the necessity of people skills and having the flexibility and adaptability to support patients on an individual basis.
- Wakefield Trinity involved working with elite athletes so Sam was able to spend more time making an assessment and rehabilitation plan. As a sports fan, Sam was aware that treating professional sports players would come with a different kind of pressure as essentially it is their career and livelihood on the line. Sam experienced a culture of respect and trust between the Head Coach and Head Physio so decisions were made in the best interest of the individual player.

OUTCOMES

Sam is looking at the PIVO sector as a first career destination when he graduates. His friend who has also experienced a PIVO placement is of a similar mindset whereas another friend who hasn't had a PIVO placement experience hasn't really considered it so that exposure to PIVO placements has directly impacted on where Sam sees his future career and is looking for roles within this part of the sector after he graduates.

ADVICE

Preparedness is key so brushing up on skills for that specialty of placements, learning names, researching the organisation/ environment. As Sam did all that, he found there were no shocks to the system upon starting his placements. Sam advices that you approach placements with an open mind as there are so many different placement settings available and each will offer different insights and experiences into the profession.

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