

ALPS & the Professional & Statutory Regulatory Bodies seminar

Towards a competent and confident professional workforce: an interprofessional partnership between ALPS, employer representatives and Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

How can ALPS practices be used beyond professional registration and can we extend ALPS to health and social care disciplines beyond the existing 16 professions?



These were two of the questions discussed at ALPS' 3rd seminar involving the UK Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs). Delegates from the 16 PSRBs involved in ALPS discussed questions such as how can ALPS' assessments be used beyond registration, agreeing that the PSRBs' existing work on giving guidance on how professionals use their portfolios for Continuing Professional Development provided the ideal opportunity to link with ALPS' work on pre-registration competency assessment.

ALPS were keen to use this 3rd seminar to further embed their work within PSRB practices and, in so doing, assure the sustainability of their work beyond 2010 when the programme ends.

Colleagues from health and social care practice and from Skills for Care attended, as well as ALPS staff from the 16 professions. The morning was spent demonstrating ALPS Common Competency Maps, how the assessment tools are created and used interprofessionally, and how they are delivered to mobile devices using the ALPS electronic systems. Delegates were moved swiftly round mini-workshops which allowed them to find out more about how ALPS has worked across five universities, 16 professions and multiple practice settings, satisfying all ethical requirements to involve staff, students and service users. Delegates were given the opportunity to experience how the Maps are used as the basis for the assessment tools. They were also shown how to access digital learning resources via a mobile device, and learned more about how the various professions were able to work together to develop enhanced assessment practices.

As well as perceiving the benefits to students, delegates also saw the potential for using ALPS work on competency assessments with underperforming and lone practitioners.

ALPS' commercial partners were on hand to explain how the competency framework was developed to work in tandem with existing competency systems and how service user confidentiality was assured at all times.

Delegate Samantha Jewell, Professional Officer (Education & Students) at the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) said, "SCoR's existing work on giving guidance on how professionals use their portfolios for Continuing Professional Development provides the ideal

opportunity to link with ALPS' work on pre-registration competency assessment. It will be interesting to see how we can work together in the future“

Trudie Roberts, ALPS Director, said, “We were delighted to host such a profitable meeting. We have worked in consultation with the PSRBs and employer organisations since the beginning of ALPS. Today, we were able to demonstrate first hand what ALPS has achieved to date. Feedback from the PSRBs and employers has been excellent and we plan to use their very positive comments in strengthening the work of ALPS”.