

Midwifery____‘I have actually bought my own device to use full time indefinitely. I found the ALPS device so useful, and once you integrate technology into your life it becomes normal, therefore it made sense for me to invest in my own device.’

Midwifery

The ALPS mobile devices have helped student midwives at the University of Bradford to stay connected to their university and feel less isolated whilst out on placement.

Tutors have a large number of students out on clinical placements to supervise, and with an ever increasing workload it can be hard for them to sustain communication with, and deliver support to each individual student. The advantage for students with mobile devices was that they were able to contact their tutors at any time, any place during their time away from university, improving the students’ overall experience on work-based practice.

One second year Midwifery student at the University of Bradford commented, ‘Contacting lecturers to organise appointments or things like that... it (the mobile device) is in your pocket and you’re instantly being able to get a response from them... And so I found that I had a lot better communication with my tutors who are now increasingly hard to get hold of.’

Rachel is studying Midwifery at the University of Bradford. She recognised the benefits of using a mobile device for learning and assessment: *‘I’m dyslexic, so anything where I don’t have to write stuff down is good!’* She continues: *‘I really liked using the calendar – especially setting reminders. I synced it to my PC at home so deadlines for essays and assessments would come up on both. It made life easier and helped me to be organised and plan ahead. I also looked at the library catalogue and used to receive emails to say books needed renewing or had been called back. It saved me a fortune in library fines!’*

‘I don’t drive – so I used my device to access the metro website. After a late shift I could access the ‘real time’ site, meaning I wasn’t stood at the bus stop late at night waiting for a scheduled bus that may or may not show up.’

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ALPS Mobile Devices

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Nursing____During the NMC annual monitoring exercise last year, the HLSP held up the ALPS programme as a good example of strong partnerships across local trusts and universities.

Nursing

A number of Nursing cohorts have piloted ALPS assessment tools and mobile devices at the University of Leeds.

Initially, students were issued with mobile devices and asked to complete the ALPS assessment tools whilst out in practice. Unfortunately, it proved difficult to embed the tools and processes in such an established profession and engagement with the mobile devices was low. This was down to a number of factors including large student numbers, delays between training sessions and practice placements, and technical difficulties with the devices.

As a result of feedback from focus groups, there are several cohorts of Nursing students across the specialities now using paper-based ALPS assessment tools. ‘Gaining consent’ is being used by one cohort to provide stimulation for discussion during their ‘Ethics and Law’ module which commenced in September 2010.

ALPS tools are also being used by a cohort of third year students to enable them to reflect on a critical incident for future learning.

In addition to these specific cohorts, all Nursing students are benefiting from ALPS outcomes as curricula are revalidated to include ALPS Common Competency Maps as learning outcomes and the tools being used in Assessment in Practice documentation.

During the NMC annual monitoring exercise last year, the HLSP held up the ALPS programme as a good example of strong partnerships across local trusts and universities. In addition, ALPS was commended for its involvement of service users and carers, particularly the fact that service users were providing feedback to Nursing students about their skills and competences.



ALPS Competency Maps

All Leeds Nursing students are benefiting from ALPS outcomes as curricula are revalidated to include ALPS Common Competency Maps.

