

Improving the sharing of placement information between Geriatric Registrars training in South Yorkshire

S Peters, C Whitehead – s.peters4@nhs.net

Integrated Geriatric and Stroke Medicine, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Background

The 2022 revised Geriatric medicine training curriculum requires trainees to spend more time with a range of healthcare professionals outside their ward placements, including in the community.

Contacts & recommendations need to be shared to enable trainees to arrange these placements efficiently, around their usual work and training.

Arranging placements in South Yorkshire was largely adhoc and time consuming, with communication limited to emails and an informal WhatsApp group.

This project aimed to establish a secure space for trainees to share information

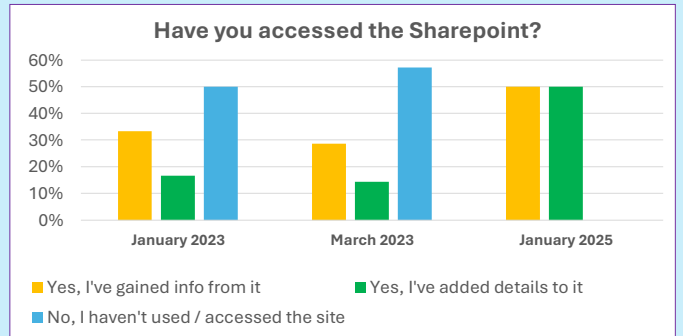
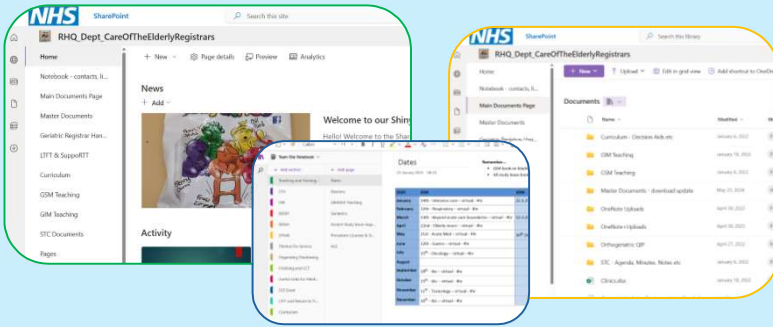
Methods

A SharePoint site was created through the Sheffield Teaching Hospital Trust's IT system in January 2022. All South Yorkshire geriatric trainees were given access and encouraged to upload useful contacts and recommendations.

Trainees were surveyed regarding their use of the site, in January 2023, March 2023, and January 2025. The number of uploaded contacts was tracked from March to July 2023 and in January 2025.

Reminders to update information were sent out prior to rotations, following feedback in the first survey.

Oversight of the SharePoint was assigned to the Specialty Trainee Committee representatives.

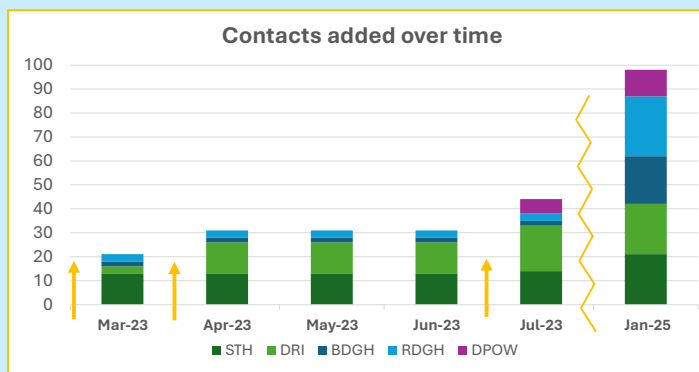


Results

Initial use of the SharePoint was limited; as shown in the graph above only 50% of trainees were using the site by January 2023. 16% hadn't accessed their login to the site and just 33% thought that it was a helpful way to share details. A prompt to use the site was sent out in March 2023 followed by a further survey. At this point all trainees had logged in to the site but only a minority were using it to add or gain details, as its intended purpose.

Suggestions in the survey included more regular prompts for trainees to upload their useful contacts and details; this was done prior to rotations in April and July 2023 (yellow arrows in the graph below) and correlated with an increase in the number of contacts added in these months. Other suggestions included nominating an individual at each trust to upload contacts, however, there were insufficient volunteers to make this happen.

Due to time out of training, further data was not collected until January 2025. By this point all trainees were using the site to add and to gain information. The number of contacts uploaded had increased with similar numbers across the different hospitals (indicated by the colours of the columns below). The final survey showed unanimously positive feedback and trainees now encouraged each other to use and maintain the site without prompting. Use of the site has widened to share information from across the training pathway as well as being a secure space for shared project documents.



Conclusions

Setting up the SharePoint was straightforward, however, initial engagement was limited. Over time a 'tipping point' was reached, when there was sufficient data available on the site for trainees to be accessing it regularly, and so be more likely to add further information themselves. Trainees now consistently use it when arranging placements and encourage one another to access it via the trainee WhatsApp group.

We are still working through the best way to maintain oversight and engagement as trainees join and leave the program but would encourage trainees in other regions to consider setting up a similar platform, bearing in mind the considerations in the boxes below.

Who designs the site and has overall responsibility?

How do you ensure information is kept up-to-date?

Who has access? How do you introduce new trainees? Do trainees who leave (eg at CCT) have ongoing access, and if not, then who removes them?

Who sends prompts to trainees to make use of the site? Be prepared for a long lead in before the site is used spontaneously (eg > 1 year)

How is this maintained through successive training years?