Midwifery

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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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Nursing

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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 specialties 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.

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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.