**Bursary Report for the British Association of Hand Therapists**

**Megan Robson**

**Paediatric Presenting Conditions in Urgent and Primary Care**

**May 2021**

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| **Introduction (107):**  I am an Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) (OT) working within the acute hand therapy setting in Burns and Plastics Surgery, Salisbury District Hospital. My ACP role has developed over the past two years to focus on the hand therapy assessment and treatment of children born with congenital differences and also following complex trauma. I applied to complete this course to improve my skill in performing a thorough paediatric history taking, full physical assessment and form a treatment plan that is patient focused, ensured personalised care and safety netting of the child. This is a Level 7 MSc module, which I applied to BAHT for support with funding. |
| **Topic (518):**  Our department has evolved over the past two years to accept direct paediatric trauma from A and E to assess, treat and manage conservatively or post operatively. Our multi-disciplinary team of nurses, therapists and medics have all had to up skill in knowledge and practical skill to be able to provide comprehensive and thorough paediatric assessments and knowledge of how to best approach treatment and engagement in rehabilitation. Not only has this ensured child centre approaches to care, it has ensured safety netting of safeguarding processes also.  This Level 7 module was highlighted as a recommended development course for key members of our MDT to attend and complete. The course was a blended approach of teaching via lectures, workshops, tutorials and workplace practice. In addition I was required to complete a Clinical Practice Portfolio which included both clinical competency, assessed by mentors in practice, and reflective pieces personal development within the competency.  Whilst I have had clinical experience of working with children both on our inpatient Burns unit and outpatient Plastics departments following injury, I had not engaged in any formal training in providing care for them. I was excited for the opportunity to engage in this module and had some clear learning personal objectives; i) Being able to provide a comprehensive and specific history taking, physical assessment and triage of children ii) Revision of child development iii) Management of conditions/ injuries in urgent care iv) Feeling confident in amalgamating my safeguarding training to build on safety netting skills.  Due to COVID measures the teaching was delivered via weekly zoom teaching sessions. The sessions were thorough and pertinent and break-out sessions enabled interaction amongst students and brainstorming of case studies for application of learning. I found the Approaches to Children and History Taking in the Child sessions extremely helpful and was able to use information and knowledge from my learning to make departmental paediatric trauma and congenital clinic standard clinical assessment forms. This provided us with the breadth and depth of information required when completing a paediatric assessment safely. In addition, the legal requirements teaching added some extra information to combine with safeguarding protocols to ensure full coverage in practice.  Many of the clinical sessions were slightly out of my comfort zone, being perhaps more aimed at nursing or medics. However, I embraced the opportunity of learning and was able to take the content of the taught lesson and apply to the competency practical work with my mentor, a Consultant Paediatrician, to ensure my clinical assessment, diagnosis and treatment planning approaches were of sound basis. I was able to complete weekly clinical sessions with my mentor on the paediatric assessment unit, where I was given wide exposure to a range of clinical presentations.  The module completion has provided me with a significant insight and breadth of skills to assessing and safely providing care for children within our department. As a team, we are now all skilled in recognising and adapting care to our younger age group and are embracing the opportunity to do this.  Thank you very much to BAHT for supporting me with this training and development. |