

CAHPR South West

Small Grants Scheme



Rebecca Fox

Which conference/study day did you attend?

12th October 2023

The National Association of Educators in Practice (NAEP) conference 2023 in Birmingham

What were the benefit of attending?

I attended to present my developing experience as a researcher embedded within the Therapy Department at a small district general hospital geographically isolated from academic centres. Much of my role is about strategically influencing and supporting the education of the Therapy workforce, building the research skills and capabilities. Often at conferences you are 'preaching to the converted', presenting your work to audiences that have similar interests – this time I was bringing a concept that was important to the themes and purpose of the conference but had a slightly different focus than some core presentations. It was a great opportunity to get feedback on my work from another perspective. Fair to say I was nervous but it was well received.

Being a researcher educator based in the NHS it was a great opportunity to interact with and consider the priorities and pressures for educators based in academia and the intersection and working practices between healthcare providers and educators. Speakers covered topics including innovation in learning in healthcare practice and anti-discrimination strategies for practice education. A standout for me was the student founder of Future Frontline – a community interest company founded during the pandemic to support and empower healthcare students in their transition to professionals, comfortable and confident learning and working in a multidisciplinary environment.

What did you learn and how will you use that learning?

I left the conference invigorated with a renewed sense of purpose and resolve in the relevance of my work (and spent the journey home drafting the first paper to come from this work!). The need to bring the purpose of education more to the fore in the clinical environment was a theme across the conference which I felt reflected and aligned with the current conversations about the need for research to hold a central space in the clinical world. I feel there needs to be resolve for these agendas to work hand in hand and ensure they don't compete for the precious resources. With my eyes opened to this, I can do what I can in my small part.