

Placement profile

Names and roles	Dean Jeffreys Online Programme and Projects Manager
Organisations	MS-UK



Placement overview

MS-UK is a national charity here to support those affected by multiple sclerosis that aims to empower people to live healthier and happier lives by improving the understanding of MS and providing support where it is needed most.

Prior to the start of the pandemic in March 2020, our role emerging placements with the University of Essex offered students the opportunity of a community-based placement within our local wellness centre in a non-traditional, non-clinical setting. The value of this type of placement allowed students a greater independence and therefore challenging their level of clinical reasoning of interventions and treatment processes for our clients. Along with identifying service improvements for us, the placements provided MS-UK with tangible outcomes and evidence for the possibility of a funded physiotherapist role to be created within the service. Unfortunately, due to the impact of COVID, our local wellbeing centre was closed at the end of 2020, but from which has led us to develop our new national service on a digital platform with a range of activities for those with MS which aims to help people to manage their condition through exercise, information and social activities. This month will see the first students on placements remotely and will be given the opportunity to develop and deliver physiotherapy services online specifically for those with MS.

Supervision: 2:1, peer learning and remote/long armed supervision

Lessons learnt:

1. The potential of a physiotherapy service as part of our offering for our client base
2. The credibility that comes with qualified health professionals
3. Allowed for a more holistic approach to managing individuals wellbeing and MS symptoms

Top tips for others:

- “With no onsite clinical supervisor and established physio service framework to follow it allowed a more autonomous process – students challenged their clinical reasoning and truly understood their professional boundaries”
- “The role emerging approach has ended with students leaving the placement more confident in their ability”
- “Evaluate the impact of role emerging placements”

Evaluation: Recorded number of sessions with each client and objective reassessment. Surveyed the clients who had direct input to establish their perceived outcomes and ascertained their views on a permanent physio role in the service. Also followed up the client’s 6 weeks after the placement to record their ongoing outcome.