

Collaboration and Education – Families and workforce

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The educational support parents and carers require to enable them to care for their critically ill child in the community setting is significant. Improvements in medical advancements and technological developments have resulted in an increasing population of children living at home with extremely complex health and care needs. With the national average rate of delayed discharge, from PCC being 9.6%¹, this significantly impacts on bed capacity and flow both regionally and nationally. Combined with the necessary recommendations of improved pathways for ventilator-dependent children to be cared for in non-critical care environments¹ action was required as long-term and complex discharges currently have a minimum stay of 6 months in Nottingham Children's Hospital to improve bed capacity and parental satisfaction. This delay can be attributed to a multitude of reasons including parental and carer education.



With thanks to



Aims and objectives-

A collaboration between University of Nottingham(UoN), Nottingham Children's Hospital (NCH) and WellChild has enabled the development of a 'Better At Home' Suite' to provide a safe place for PCC families to learn and practice many of the skills required to care for their child at home and upskilling the future workforce.

Methods-

Collaboration and establishment of the relationships was integral to deliver the Suite and its benefits. The uniqueness of this location is the university and PCC are co-located within the same hospital, enabling and empowering families access to the facility 24/7. The introduction of undergraduate students to service users and real-life circumstances bridges gaps in education.



Results-

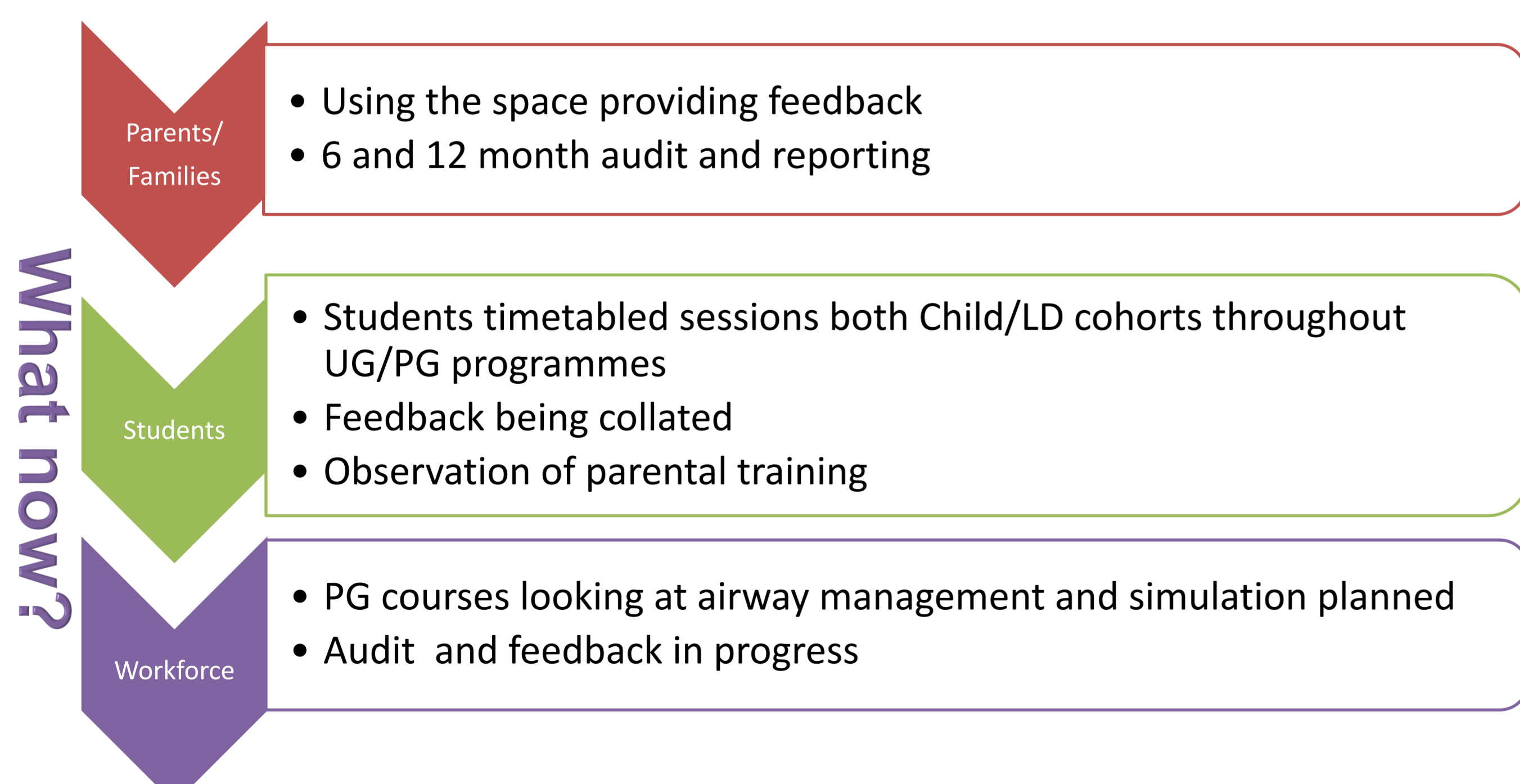
The ongoing relationship between WellChild, NCH and UoN has led to the development of this Suite. The educational outcome for parents, families, students and wider services users has positive impacts on outcomes. The benefit of this suite is in its infancy, however, there are currently in excess of 150 families that will utilise the suite with 1500 undergraduate health care professionals

We had several months of adapting to our new life with Sophie's tracheostomy care, including training new carers at home... a suite like this would have provided a space where we could make mistakes and not be under pressure'

Expanding this programme to new parts of the UK, we can give more parents and carers the skills and confidence to care for their children safely at home, where they will have the very best chance to thrive."

Conclusion-

The addition of the suite for PCC families and students has the potential to reduce length of stay, improved confidence and competence, and enhance future health care relationships.



1. NHSE and NHSI (2022)- Paediatric Critical Care GIRFT Programme National Specialty Report.