Healthcare Play Specialist

Education Trust

(A Charity Registered in the U.K. - Reg. No. 292218)

ANNUAL REPORT

January 2015 – January 2016
Healthcare Play Specialist Education Trust

Registers Qualified Health Play Specialists

Sets the qualifying standards

Monitors continued fitness to practice

Annual Report 2015 - 2016

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Email: admin@hpset.org.uk
Website: www.hpset.org.uk
Members of the Trust
January 2015 to January 2016

Chair (until July 2015)                          Mrs Suzanne Storer
Chair (from August 2015)                       Ms Tina Clegg
Chief Registration Officer (until July 2015)   Mrs Carol Williams
Chief Registration Officer (from August 2015)  Mrs Meriel Tootell
Honorary Treasurer                            Mr Richard Spicer
Secretary                                      Ms Alison Tonkin
Registration Committee Chairman (until July 2015)  Mrs Carol Williams

Board Members
Mrs Frances Barbour
Ms Lydia Bennett
Mrs Wendy Brickett (until July 2015)
Ms Joy Clapham
Mrs Judith Dibble                                British Psychological Society
Ms Sandie Dinnen
Mrs Emma Eardley                               National Association of Health Play Specialists
Ms Christina Freeman                          Society and College of Radiographers
Ms Polly Hind (until January 2015)            Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice
Ms Angela Horsley
Mrs Norma Jun-Tai                               National Association of Health Play Specialists
Mrs Janet Morris
Ms Irene O’Donnell                            National Association of Health Play Specialists
Mrs Maureen O’Hagan MBE                       World Organisation for Early Years Education
Mrs Laila Paulsen-Becejac                    University of West London

Legal Adviser
Potter Rees

Independent Examiner of Financial Statements
Castle Ryce, Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors,
The Clock House, 87 Paines Lane, Pinner, Middlesex.

Web Master
Dr Lee Whitmore

Registration Co-ordinator
Ms Julia Whitaker
Box 205, 44-46 Morningside Road, Edinburgh, EH10 4BF
Email: registration@hpset.org.uk
Telephone: 07514 076 008
HPSET Trustee Activities 2015

Suzanne Storer
Chair (retired July 2015)

HPSET Trustee Activities to July 2015

At the 2015 Annual General Meeting I gave formal notice of my intention to retire from the Board of Trustees as of the July Board Meeting. My decision was not made lightly knowing that the position of chairman was not an aspiration of the Board members.

It was at this time that Carol Williams the Chief Registration Officer and Wendy Brickett also gave notice of their intention to retire in July too. Succession of key positions was destined for creative thinking if the Trust was to survive. It was not an option not to.

Recruitment of new trustees was rewarded when we welcomed Lydia Bennett, Joy Clapham and Sandie Dinnen to the Board at the AGM. Their expertise in social work, secondary education and further education would prove to add another dimension to matters of the meetings and the wider work of the Trust.

The work of the Trust continued to gather pace as Julia our Registration Co-ordinator registered successful students from the four colleges and dealt with a rising number of lapsed registrants. The five year rolling programme of all registrants to be on a two year re-registration programme by the end of December 2015 was also beginning to impact on her workload.

Registration committee meetings continued to be held in Edinburgh and we were delighted to have Meriel and Sandie join the committee in assessing the profiles of continuing professional development and adding to the decision making process.

It was a relief when the University of West London agreed to an additional year before revalidating the Foundation Degree in Healthcare Play Specialism. This created an opportunity to canvass wider views from colleges, students and mentors, who, with the information gained over the past five years, would be helpful informing the revalidation process.

It was seriously disappointing that two Mentor Forum meetings were cancelled due to the poor uptake from mentors thus depriving HPSET of a detailed discussion regarding all aspects of mentoring as well as a recruiting a representative to be part of the validating process.
By the end of April the Trust had received four worthy nominations for the first HPSET Mentor of the Year Award. Nominated by her mentee and selected by the panel Jane Poole was chosen for her high level of subject expertise, excellent empathetic mentoring skills and going above and beyond the call of duty for her mentee. The award was conferred at the NAHPS conference which celebrated 50 years of play in hospitals and symbolised just how far Health Play Specialists had travelled on their career pathway into the 21st century.

As the July Board meeting loomed with no sign of a successor for the position of chairman or chief registration officer the outlook was bleak and needed a plan of action should the issue not be resolved.

It was a fortuitous occasion when I met with a past colleague Tina Clegg who was retiring from work. As a qualified play specialist, past chair of NAHPS and representative trustee to HPSET, play service manager and finally General Manager for Children’s Services at the University Hospitals of Leicester I did not hesitate to nominate her to become a Trustee.

Tina was accepted onto the Board of Trustees at the July Meeting. As the day progressed and the plan of action worked through Tina was nominated by Judy Dibble for chairman and agreed unanimously with Meriel Tootell agreeing to be Chief Registration Officer. What an unexpected but perfect outcome to the day.
As a lasting legacy of my time as a Trustee of the Healthcare Play Specialist Education Trust I have set up the Suzanne Storer Profile of the Year Award which is an award in the form of a financial contribution not exceeding £100.00 in any one year period to the furtherance of a CPD activity for the most deserving registrant’s submission of a CPD profile. This may support attendance at a local or national conference, a short course, or visit a place of excellence, assist with resources to write, print, or publish an article, design a leaflet etc. The recipient will be required to produce a reflective account of no more than 750 word count of the use and benefit of the Award for the following year’s Annual Report.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been part of the Trust for many years. It has enabled me to work with and meet inspiring people who are dedicated to the furtherance of play in healthcare settings in the UK and Japan. I am heartened that Tina will bring renewed energy and a fresh approach to the Trust as you move forward.

As we leave the Trust in safe hands, from me, and on behalf of Carol and Wendy I would like to express our appreciation of your support and friendship over the years. The gifts, flowers and good wishes on our departure were the icing on the cake.

Suzanne Storer
Chair of the Board of Trustees
I have worked from 1980 to 2015 in Children’s Services in the NHS. I initially trained as a nursery nurse and my first post was on a neonatal unit in Oldham, Lancashire. I then moved to Birch Hill District General Hospital in Rochdale and worked for Save the Children Fund on a pilot play scheme and gained my HPS qualification. I worked on a paediatric general medical ward. I later moved to Booth Hall Children’s Hospital and worked as part of a play team for the first time and practised on the medical and surgical day ward, burns unit, Emergency Department and with links to many supporting services following patient pathways. I was a regular guest tutor on the Bolton HPS course.

I moved to Leicester in 1997 to join the play team as a play co-ordinator in the year the HPS course was developed and delivered in Leicester. I undertook a PCG in Adult Education so that I could take up the role of part-time course tutor. In the hospital through professional development and management re-structures I undertook the roles service manager, senior service manager and finally general manager. Alongside teaching I have presented at conferences and published chapters in Nursing Books.

I have been a member of NAHPS throughout my professional life and served on the Board and as Chair. I represented NAHPS on the HPSET Board. I resigned my active role in NAHPS and later HPSET and practice as a play specialist when I became senior service manager due to the demands of the role. As I was no longer practicing play or responsible for delivering play services I did not meet the criteria to re-register as a practitioner at this time. I was pleased to be invited to join the HPSET Board when I retired in August 2015 and have taken over responsibility as Administrator and Chair. I would like to thank Suzanne Storer - former Chair and the Board for the warm welcome and support during my first few months. I would also like to thank Alison Tonkin (Secretary) for the administrative support offered while undertaking my new role.
In my first four months I have tried to meet many students and registrants and to be involved in as many work streams as possible. A flavour of my work and contacts to date have been:

- Board meetings
- Mentor training at North Warwickshire and Hinckley College and Cardiff and Vale College
- Network meeting at Bristol Children’s Hospital
- Re-registration meeting
- Royal College of Anaesthetist – reviewing and developing professional guidelines
- Work group reviewing the Student Handbook
- Administration work

At the January 2016 Board Meeting the Board are going to develop a draft one, three and five year business plan which will focus the Board on the essential work streams for the foreseeable future.

I plan to spend more time meeting registrants and students and representing the profession. If you would like me or a Board member to join you at one of your team meetings or development days please contact me on the admin@hpset.org.uk and we will try to meet up with you.

Tina Clegg
Chair (commenced August 2015)

HPSET Registration Committee Report 2015

Meriel Tootel
Chief Registration Officer (commenced August 2015)

When I resigned from my position as Head of Early Years, Health, Social Care and Counselling at Bolton College in 2013, I was very privileged to be asked to become a member of the HPSET Board. I am passionate about Early Years and have a wide and varied experience within the early year’s sector. I was formally a nursery/reception teacher and then a tutor working in the community developing parenting skills before progressing into Further Education, to lecture in early years at various levels and with various age groups. I have also worked as a part-time OFSTED Nursery Inspector for a period of eight years.

I have been involved with the role of the HPS since 1989, initially doing some guest speaker lectures on the course. As part of my role at Bolton College, I was involved in the initial development of the Foundation Degree (FdA) in Healthcare Play Specialism, with HPSET, Stanmore College and the University of West London. I was
the Year 1 Course Tutor for the Foundation Degree in Healthcare Play Specialism for a short time at Bolton College. I greatly admire the role of the HPS and the benefit of the HPS to the lives of children and young people cannot be emphasised enough.

When I first joined the Board I became a member of the Mentoring Working Party and was instrumental in developing the standards for Preparing Health Play Specialists for Mentoring and Mentoring Standards. I also deliver mentoring training and assess the M8/M12 standard. Visiting colleges and hospitals when delivering the training has been a very pleasurable experience as it gives me the opportunity to meet HPSs and be kept up-dated of changes in the role.

When Carol Williams resigned from her position as Chief Registration Officer in July, last year, I volunteered to take on the role. Over the past years, Carol has done an excellent job in overseeing the smooth running of the registration process. There are other hard working trustees on the Registration Committee who support me in validating the CPD profiles to ensure fairness, transparency and that high standards are maintained. Julia Whitaker, Registration Co-ordinator does a wonderful job in providing an excellent administrative back up and responding to individual queries and concerns about the registration process.

Many of the CPD profiles that are assessed are a joy to read and really demonstrate the commitment and dedication of the HPS to the profession. In recognition of this, Suzanne Storer has very generously decided to set up and fund an annual Award for the Best CPD Profile. The registration committee will identify outstanding profiles, as they are assessed, to be put forward for the award. Further details about this award will be advertised shortly on the HPSET website.

To support you all in the future, in ensuring Indexation Forms are completed on time and that the re-registration process meets the required deadlines, I will be drawing up guidelines, which will hopefully clarify the process and act as an aide memoir. These guidelines will be sent out in January 2016.

Meriel Tootel
Chief Registration Officer

Julia Whitaker
Registration Co-ordinator

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Julia for her work as registration coordinator this last year and particularly for the support she has shown to the new members of the Board.
An overview from the University

The FdA Healthcare Play Specialism course currently runs at Bolton College, Cardiff and Vale College, North Warwickshire and Hinckley College and Stanmore College. The course continues to be well-evaluated by the students, with very low attrition rates. Thirty students across the four Colleges successfully completed the FdA Healthcare Play Specialism course in August 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>Distinction</th>
<th>Merit</th>
<th>Pass</th>
<th>Fail</th>
<th>Total number completed to date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stanmore College</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff and Vale College</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Warwickshire and Hinckley College</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolton</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The FdA Healthcare Play Specialism is due for revalidation for a September 2016 start. Planning has already started for this and both a student rep and a mentor have been invited to participate in this. The re-validation had been delayed by 1 year, to enable the board to consider whether or not the training should be linked to the Higher Apprenticeship scheme. Upon further discussion with the Board, students, mentors and the four Colleges, the decision was made not to incorporate the Higher Apprenticeship scheme into this course. The currently validated course is being reviewed and minor modifications are being made to the existing modules.

The University of West London continues to explore the option of delivering the course in both Scotland and Ireland. To date, in spite of a number of enquiries, this has not been pursued. Discussions are currently being held to look at another College to run the HPS course in the south.

Laila Paulsen-Becejac
University of West London

Report from Bolton College 2015

This has been another successful year at Bolton College which has seen the third cohort of students successfully completing the second year of the course and graduating. This has led to 6 students registering with HPSET as Registered Play Specialists. These students have been successful at gaining employment with one student successfully securing a HPS position at Claire House Children’s Hospice in the Wirral, one at Telford Hospital, one at Wrexham Hospital, one at Bradford and one working as a community HPS at Stockport Foundation Trust.
### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results to date</th>
<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>Retention</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Success</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 - 2015</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6 86%</td>
<td>6 100%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>2X Merits 4X Distinctions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 - 2016</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td>100% achievement at level 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In September 2014 a fourth cohort of 10 students were enrolled onto the course. All are female and white with one student travelling from Dublin every week to undertake her studies. All are indexed with HPSET and the collection of the indexation fee at the point of enrolment has worked well.

Mentors have had an induction with Suzanne Storer – Chair at HPSET (October 2014) with lots of questions raised and explored regarding the role of the mentor and their responsibilities. However, mentors have requested that more time is allocated to this meeting with a clearer presentation of information (i.e. Power Point) so they have a direct focus of their role and clarification.

Student feedback indicates that mentors are carrying out their expected role and obligations effectively. Some mentors requested that a closer liaison between the college tutors and themselves was needed. This has been acknowledged and will be acted upon. Kathryn Terry has been allocated 2.5 days within her timetable to visit mentors.

To date we have offered 12 places to prospective students with the possibility of this rising to 14.

There has been staffing changes once again within the college with a new Head of Area and Curriculum Leader. However, the course continues to be managed and delivered by staff with a wide range of experience and varying specialisms relevant to the curriculum. The academic content of the programme continues to be enhanced by guest speakers, visits to hospitals and current practitioners.

Kathryn E. Terry  
Programme Leader

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**Report from Cardiff and Vale College 2015**

2015 resulted in the first cohort to complete the full programme with 2 students achieving Distinction and 1 Merit. The 3 students from year 1 progressed to year 2 and the 2015 cohort has seen a rise in numbers from 3 to 6 students. Of the 3 qualified students 1 was already working in practice and 1 other has secured a role as HPS. The other is in the childcare sector.
All students to date have been female and white with one student relocating from Ireland to study. Both cohorts benefitted from a visit to the children’s hospice which raised their awareness of various conditions and the role of the HPS in such a setting.

Mentors have had an induction with Tina Clegg – Chair of HPSET with lots of questions raised and explored regarding the role of the mentor and their responsibilities. One student lost her mentor to illness which was concerning for a while however Bath Hospital has agreed to mentor her and I made a visit to go through the handbook with the mentor.

Student feedback indicates that mentors are carrying out their expected roles and obligations effectively. Some mentors requested that a closer liaison between the college tutors and themselves was needed and this has been addressed by exchanging email addresses.

**Andrea Morgans**
Programme Leader

**Report from North Warwickshire and Hinckley College 2015**

This has been a successful year at North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, which has seen the first cohort of students successfully completing the second year of the course and graduating. This has led to two students registering with HPSET as Registered Play Specialists. These students have been successful in gaining employment. One is currently on maternity leave but has secured a job working as a play specialist in the community and the other is now employed at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire.

### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results to date</th>
<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>Retention</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Success</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 - 2015</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2 Distinctions 1 Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 - 2016</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100% achievement at level 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 - 2017</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One student transferred to Stanmore at the end of year 1

[12]
In September 2014 a second cohort of 14 students were enrolled onto the course. All are female and all are indexed with HPSET. Mentors have had an induction with Suzanne Storer – Chairperson at HPSET (October 2014) with lots of questions raised and explored regarding the role of the mentor and their responsibilities. However, mentors requested time is allocated in college in order to facilitate the completion of the mid-term review. This was agreed to and implemented with all attendees expressing how useful it was. Student feedback indicates that mentors are carrying out their expected role and obligations effectively. Some mentors requested that a closer liaison between the college tutors and themselves was needed. This was acknowledged and has been acted upon. Jackie Ford has issued her work e-mail and phone number to all mentors.

There have been staffing changes once again within the college with a new director and team leader being appointed. However, the course continues to be managed and delivered by staff with a wide range of experience and varying specialisms relevant to the curriculum. The academic content of the programme is continually being developed to include the use of guest speakers, and current practitioners.

Jacqueline Ford
Course Leader

Report from Stanmore College 2015

This has been another successful year for the students, with 100% retention and 100% success.

In November, we saw the fourth set of students graduate in the Weston Hall at the St Mary’s Road Campus, University of West London. All 19 of the students who
completed the course have since been registered with HPSET as Health Play Specialists (pictured above).

There were also four Health Play Specialists from the previous year who progressed onto the one year top up at the college to graduate with a BA (Hons) Working in integrated services for children and young people at the same ceremony. They did extremely well and their degree classifications were as follows: First x 3 2:1 x 2

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>Retention</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Progression</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1 student has since deferred due to caring responsibilities and will return in September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Registration with HPSET as registered Healthcare Play Specialists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is the third year that the FdA has been classified - the following classifications were achieved:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distinction</th>
<th>Merit</th>
<th>Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These results compare favourably when viewed as part of the three year trend:-

Graph 1: Classification of FdA HPS – 3 year trend
Recruitment for 2015-2016
This year, we have recruited 15 students onto the course. This is a small increase on the previous year and actually goes against the national trend, whereby the number of mature, part-time students entering HE has halved over the past five years (Hillman 2015).

Reference:

Alison Tonkin
Course Leader


The National Association of Health Play Specialists has engaged in a number of activities this year:

The annual conference took on an historical flavour as this year NAHPS celebrated its 40th anniversary. Dr Richard Wilson, patron and a founder member of NAHPS, along with Gabi Marston, the first HPS & tutor, gave excellent accounts of how the profession began; illustrating effective links to social and economic drivers. Other keynote speakers shared insightful views from the patient and siblings perspective.

As a result of ongoing collaboration with Kath Evans, NAHPS received funding from NHS England to undertake a scoping review of literature to identify how Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is applied or implemented for children and young people who are sick or have chronic healthcare needs. Alison Tonkin was commissioned to undertake this project and identified 2 research questions:

How important is play for children’s health, particularly when they are ill or have chronic health conditions?

How does current health service provision fulfil children’s rights to play as defined by article 31 of the UNCRC?

We are grateful to Alison for her succinct yet systematic and clear appraisal of the literature. The findings indicate that a respected body of work has been published on the benefits of play in healthcare environments however the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of skilled interventions such as therapeutic and procedural play is less well documented and therefore difficult to measure. As a result of this scoping exercise, NAHPS has actively liaised with members to promote the culture of collating and publishing evidence based data to a wider, influential audience. Examples are found in this report.

NAHPS has been successful in having an abstract submission accepted to next year’s RCPCH conference where we will be running a workshop. In addition, an invitation has been received (along with HPSET) to join a working group at RCOA on the 6th January 2016
In September/October, NAHPS facilitated another successful Play in Hospital week (PiHW) which was sponsored again by Starlight. This event marked the 40th year of PiHW, raising the profile on play provision in healthcare settings and received a high participation rate from HPS across the UK.

An evaluation tool enabling members to record feedback on the week will be developed to build on patients and practitioner engagement and experiences.

NAHPS continues to participate in the programme development meetings at the University of West London, in line with the revalidation of the FdA in Healthcare Play Specialism. Alongside the review of the modules, there is a requirement to map the professions Occupational Standards against the learning outcomes and this has presented a timely opportunity to review the Standards.

The second e-newsletter received favourable comments from members. Penelope Hart-Spencer and Dan Notley coordinate the website, social media and e-resource based information whilst The Journal is now under the editorship of Cath Hubbuck.

NAHPS is represented on the board of Action for Sick Children. A recurrent theme for both organisations is working to improve the oral health of children. Recently, Norma Jun-Tai was invited to a policy round table focus at the House of Lords where experts in health and social care, led by representatives from NHS England and Public Health England reviewed the statistics. The greatest number of hospital sedations and GA procedures in 5-9 yr old children is for preventable dental treatment; this has a far reaching impact on health services with play specialists having first-hand experience of preparing and distracting anxious children in these situations. As a result of this link the theme became the focus for the Hugh Jolly memorial lecture. Amy Joss was the key note speaker and gave an informative account of the Dental Play Box scheme run by Action for Sick Children Scotland; providing impressive...
statistics on the successful outcomes of community work. It is our custom to facilitate workshops for members prior to the evening lecture and this year it was apposite to focus on writing skills to support the publication of professional activity and evidence based practice. The next Hugh Jolly lecture will be held on 9th November 2016.

NAHPS are members of the National Council for Child Health and Well-being and the latest meeting held at the RCN highlighted the need for healthcare practitioners to understand the reporting arrangements for victims of suspected FGM. Another theme from the meeting focused on “Engaging Young People as Partners in Healthcare –are we there yet”? Kath Evans presented ideas on more collaborative ways of hearing the child’s voice.

Finally, NAHPS would like to thank HPSET for another successful year of working in partnership with the profession and extend every good wish to Suzanne Storer as she retires from her post as Chair. We look forward to working closely with Tina Clegg and will fully support her role as the new chair.

Richard Spicer
Honorary Treasurer

HEALTHCARE PLAY SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST
Statement of Financial Activities
Year Ended 30 September 2015
The accounts were approved by the Trustees at the Board Meeting on the 30th November 2015.

A full copy of the financial accounts may be obtained on request from the office.
HPSET Children’s Environments of Care Report 2015

One of the three objectives for HPSET is:
‘The undertaking of research into the care in hospital and in the community of children, young people and their families and the publication of the useful results thereof’.

The following overview provides an example of a report that was published by HPSET in July 2015 and the subsequent activities that demonstrate how HPSET is fulfilling this objective.

In November 2014, having completed a literature review commissioned by the National Association of Health Play Specialists (NAHPS) on *The provision of play in health service delivery* (NAHPS 2014), I was commissioned by Kath Evans (Head of Patient Experience, Maternity, Newborn, Children and Young People at NHS England) to ‘explore the impact environments have on children and young people’s experiences of healthcare’. We discussed examples, both positive and negative, demonstrating the significance of environmental encounters that children and young people face when using healthcare facilities and agreed to produce a report, drawing together these examples, linked to an evidence base that could support and inform effective practice.

A literature review using a scoping study methodology was undertaken to maximise the amount and diversity of sources that could be reviewed. The report is divided into three main sections, which follows the Executive Summary:

- General background – provides a historical context, an overview of the importance of environments, the policy framework and theoretical perspectives surrounding children’s environments of care and the need for play and recreation
- Children and young people’s experiences – covers a range of differing settings and environmental considerations and how they impact on children and young people
- Capturing experiences – identifies the importance of capturing and using the voices of children and young people in all aspects, and how this can be and has been done. Participation should include the initial planning and development of environments through to the monitoring and evaluation of environments and their impact on the experience of healthcare provision.

As the review progressed, it became apparent that some elements required expanded coverage and five case studies and an extended commentary, written by different authors were also included. These cover:

- The importance of providing an environment that promotes play and recreation within the healthcare setting – Rachel Fitzpatrick, Hospital Play Team Manager, Chelsea and Westminster
- Sensory Environments (extended commentary) – Hannah Lashite, Healthcare Play Specialist Student, Stanmore College
- Collaborative project between Northwick Park Hospital and Stanmore College – Jeremy Weldon (NPH) and Claire Weldon (SC)
- Turning the ‘brief’ into reality – Jo Trussler, Health Care Planner, Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Brief making and Participatory Process – Lucy Dinnen, Architect
Kath Evans granted permission for the report to be published through any chosen medium and having approached Suzanne as the Chair of HPSET, the report was published by HPSET in July 2015.

It is available through the HPSET website and can be accessed through the following link: [http://www.hpset.org.uk/HPSET_CEC%20Report_Final_30.06.15.pdf](http://www.hpset.org.uk/HPSET_CEC%20Report_Final_30.06.15.pdf)

In advance of publication on the 22nd and 23rd June 2015, the report was promoted through a poster presentation, jointly with Kath, at the European Healthcare Design Conference, entitled 'Empowering Patients: Transforming the health economy through design'. This was held at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

Since publication, I was fortunate enough to be invited by Kath and the Patient Experience Network (PEN) to present the main findings from the report at three roadshow events in Leeds, Birmingham and London in November 2015. With permission from Tina who reviewed the presentation, the roadshows entitled ‘What Are Children and Young People Saying About Their Experience of Care and What Are We Doing About It?’ provided the ideal opportunity to promote the role of play and recreation to over 500 people, including commissioners, healthcare providers and practitioners.

A huge ‘thank you’ is extended to Kath Evans from NHS England for commissioning this report and enabling publication through HPSET, as well as Kath’s continued advocacy and promotion of the role of play and recreation for children and young people and the role of the Healthcare Play Specialist.

Dr Alison Tonkin