

How can we improve our Northampton Area Psychology (NAP) teachers group provision?

Context

- Northampton Area Psychology (NAP) teachers group is an initiative led by psychology lecturers at the university of Northampton.
- It is a provision for A level and B-tec psychology teachers to meet and promote knowledge exchange, a community of practice, curriculum updates and developments within the field.
- The NAP team also hold NAPPER events where A level and B-tec students can take part in their own research at the university.

Aim

As we slowly transition out of COVID-19 it is our aim to ensure the NAP provision is fit for purpose by:

- Evaluating the benefits the provision .
- Evaluating how the provision can be improved upon to facilitate engagement for both teachers and students.

Method

- We used semi-structured interviews recruiting teachers in the Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire area.
- We hoped to analyse data collected using thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Discussion

- The lack of participants in this research project has resulted in an absence of rich data to enable thematic analysis.
- Ethical approval has been given to change our data collection method to an online survey.
- This approach may not result in rich data but will allow for evaluation research to take place which captures the opinions of our NAP provision in a more practical way, hopefully, allowing for wider teacher participation.

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Results

- Unfortunately due to a lack of participants we failed to gain enough data to inform themes of analysis.
- However, the following valuable points were noted in quotes from a transcription.

How best we can facilitate meetings?

“Online would make it more accessible”

What time would make these meetings more manageable with teaching commitments one teacher?

“ probably prefer after school”

What is important to you in terms of what the meetings facilitate?

“ Talk about lesson ideas” “You want to keep things fresh”

What do you feel research days should facilitate for students?

“ Showing the students there are real life people that do this”

“getting the discussion going where students can really see like the thought process that goes into each of the studies and theories.”

References

Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2006). Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3, 77-111.