Aiding transition from ST3 – ST4 in Paediatric trainees: The results of a survey of trainees and trainers.

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Aim: To assess how well prepared ST3 paediatric trainees felt they were prior to becoming registrars. Did they feel unprepared? What were their main concerns and what measures they felt could be implemented to increase preparedness? We compared their responses with those from a similar survey sent to the consultants responsible for their training.

Methods: A mailshot with a link to an online survey was mailed to ST3 trainees in London & Eastern Deaneries. A further mailshot was sent to college tutors for hospitals in the London Deanery. Trainees were emailed, in 07/12 and 11/13 allowing recruitment from 2 different years of trainees. A single mailshot was sent each time putting the emphasis to respond with the trainee. The college tutors were only emailed once.

Results: Trainee survey: 73 responses (10 Eastern, 63 London deanery.) 80% were UK undergraduates. RCPCH membership not achieved by 56%: 26% sitting written papers, 30% waiting to sit clinical exams. Consultants survey: 13 responses. 70% Felt ST4s not adequately equipped to be registrars. 90% felt mandatory training measures should be introduced in ST3.

Competency in various scenarios: Trainee survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Neo</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Gen</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paed Resus</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neo Resus</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading team</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical skills</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out patients</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trainees biggest concerns

- Management/Decision making
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Paediatric resuscitation
- Common General medicine
- Common Neo
- Paediatric ward
- Respiratory
- Neonatal
- Urgent surgery
- Infection control
- Paediatric assessment
- Paediatric outpatient clinics
- Paediatric acute medicine
- Paediatric inpatient care
- Pediatrics outreach
- Paediatrics outpatients
- Complex neonatal
- Complex general medicine
- Informatics
- Mental Health

Trainee suggestions for mandatory tasks

Assessed resuscitation leadership
Communication course
Safeguarding teaching
Leadership / Management course
Assessed sessions as registrar
Study days / Lectures
Simulation

Trainee suggestions to aid transition

- ST4 in a hospital you have already worked
- Universal hospital guidelines
- Spend ST3 year in a DGH with compulsory acting up built into the rota
- Completion of non-WBA assignments (CP medical, lead a ward round)
- Assessed resuscitation competencies

Novel suggestions on aiding transition:

- ACTING-UP (fixed period)
- Anaesthetic list (intubations)
- Leading ward rounds
- Mentorship programme
- Safeguarding teaching / Report writing
- DGH / General paediatrics in ST3

Consultant Suggestions to Aid transition:

- 9 months tertiary neonates (intubation skills)
- Decision making experiences
- Leadership course
- Communication training
- Practical skills
- Assessed resuscitation competencies

Conclusion: Our data has identified specific areas where existing training could be altered or new training measures instigated to ensure that registrars feel better prepared for their new roles. The concerns raised from both surveys can be split into human factors (leadership, decision making, teamwork) and clinical factors (acting-up, access to clinics, clinical skills, child protection medicals). It is possible to address many of these issues in SHO years, making trainees more confident in leadership and delegation.