

Coventry and Warwickshire VTS, CRN West Midlands and Warwick Medical School
‘Primary Care Research and Audit in Coventry and Warwickshire’
11th July 2019

PRESENTER’S DETAILS									
Title (Prof, Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss) Dr		First Name Farah			Surname Kidy				
Place of work/study University of Warwick									
PRESENTATION DETAILS (total max 250 words - not including title)									
Co-Authors Rebecca Willans				Title of Study Focus groups to evaluate post-graduate medical education: is it worth it?					
Category (select)									
Audit		Research		Education Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation Project		Clinical Reflection	
What’s the problem you are tackling? (Background) The Faculty of Public Health mandates the provision of academic supervision (AS) for registrars to support the achievement of academic competencies and the development of academic. In 2017 a one to one supervision was replaced with Academic Learning Sets (ALS) in the West Midlands. ALS involved an assessment of learning needs followed by three group sessions. We discuss here the results of the mixed methods evaluation, the added value of mixed methods and the resources needed to evaluate in this way.									

How did/will you do it? (Method)

Participants completed a questionnaire before and after the ALSs to capture changes in skills confidence and attitudes to academic work. Three focus groups were held with four or five registrars in each. Conversation was guided by a topic guide which was adapted with each iteration. Thematic analysis was used to analyse transcripts.

What did you find? (Results)

Questionnaires and focus groups highlighted problems experienced by registrars and concerns about the ALS method. However, focus groups demonstrated that registrars were solution focussed and keen to be involved in the process of change. The discussions highlighted aspects of ALS which registrars valued, such as the opportunity to meet each other and to learn about ongoing work.

Time taken for the questionnaire design and analysis was one week. Focus group training, organisation, delivery, transcription and analysis took approximately six weeks of each person's time. Although the focus groups took considerably longer to deliver, positive changes to the scheme and registrar engagement would not have been possible without them.

So, it is worth it? For key evaluations: Yes!

Why does this matter? (Conclusion)