

“Someone was there just when I needed them!”

A Pharmacist working for Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) told us how the library had helped her and what that support had meant to her and the Trust.

It started when she was studying for a diploma. She found that she urgently needed help with a literature review. She got in contact with UHL Libraries & Information Services, who also support LPT staff, and found that she was immediately able to sit with a qualified librarian who used her own example to demonstrate how to search for quality information.

She says that the skills she was taught that day stayed with her. Since then she has been able to do her own searches on several occasions and has also used UHL Libraries & Information Services to order many full text articles.

Example one

A patient in a mental health ward who had a diagnosis of pericarditis needed to be prescribed an antidepressant. As a member of the MDT, she was asked by the Consultant about the most suitable and safe treatment options. She did a search on this, found 2 articles, retrieved the full text of those articles and made a recommendation. She says that the information was particularly useful because it told them to avoid certain types of drugs.

Example two

A ward manager was considering a ban or limit with energy drinks being brought onto on her ward, especially considering they could exacerbate agitation in already mentally unwell patients. However they had no evidence upon which to base such a decision. She was able to do a literature review on this topic. She summarised the evidence and presented it to the ward to help them make their decision. She says that not only did it help the ward, as the ward manager took the issue to a managers meeting for a decision to be made on whether to make this a Trust-wide ban.

Impact

Both these examples show that the skills and confidence she gained from the library have made an impact within LPT. Both these examples show that our services can improve patient safety and also lead to quicker discharge. This also has other implications, not least a reduction in costs. This is just one or two examples, if this is going on across the Trust, the savings could be very significant.

Personal impact

In addition she has also benefitted from interaction with UHL Libraries & Information Services when she got some help with learning and practising critical appraisal skills. She used these skills to appraise some papers for her portfolio and viva when she achieved Accredited Membership of the College of Mental Health Pharmacists. She also turned trainer when she taught her daughter who is studying Pharmacy how to search databases for information and this helped her to achieve 81% in a course assignment!

All this came from a meeting in the library, when she, as many other have done, found the professional, experienced and dedicated staff of UHL Libraries & Information Services were able to help and that most of all, someone was there just when she needed them.