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GIVING SOMETHING BACK: INTRODUCING GP TRAINEES TO TEACHING IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

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Background

Widening access to medicine and positively promoting general practice as a career presented an opportunity for GP trainees to become involved with schools in the locality. This project aimed to facilitate final year GP trainees to set up, plan and lead a school-based educational session for children

Summary of work

We identified primary and secondary schools in the local area, which were interested in inviting GP trainees talk to their pupils. The trainees arranged a session which reflected the needs/interests of the pupils, broadly: promoting medicine/GP as a career, healthy living and introducing pupils to the role of a GP.

Summary of results

Feedback shows the sessions were quite varied in content according to the schools' needs and that they were positively received by the all: trainees found the session uplifting, and innovative, whilst schools found the idea exciting and interesting. Participants (trainees and schools) found the sessions novel and useful. The scheme had, however, an unintended consequence in revealing need from the schools' perspective of more support for pupils' mental and social health.

Conclusions

The project helped trainees to gain wider experience of the locality and developing their educational skills. The schools welcomed the sessions and it allowed them to share some of the challenges they face.

Take home messages

The project demonstrated the need for closer interaction between schools and primary care to build links as well as to support schools.