Anglia Ruskin University

Cambridge & Chelmsford

Shifting Identities in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing: the part of education

Val Thurtle

Aim

To gain an understanding of how health visitors, school nurses and occupational health nurses are constructing and articulating their professional identities through language and discourse in the context of the Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) part of the register

Anglia Ruskin University

Cambridge & Chelmsford

Methods

•Discourse analysis of the archive of contributions to the two Nursing and Midwifery Council consultations on the setting up of the third part of the register.

•Analysis of in depth interviews with six specialist community public health nurses from each of the three different groups (school nurses, occupational health nurses and health visitors).

•Analysis of material from a multidisciplinary focus group of six specialist community public health nurses from the different groups.

Approach

- social constructionist
- drawing on discursive psychology
- broad view of discourse analysis

Data Analysis

- Using Willig (2001) framework
  - Discursive construction
  - Discourses
  - Action orientation
  - Positioning.
  - Practice
  - Subjectivity

Findings

- Construct of a SCPHN?
- Different trajectories
- Each developing and articulating own separate identity

Anglia Ruskin University

Cambridge & Chelmsford

Outcomes- school nurses

- Nurse
- Expert in child care
- Public Health
    - Teaching and improving health
    - Seeking health needs
    - Working in a school community
- Collaborator
- Satisfied innovative, confident

Anglia Ruskin University

Cambridge & Chelmsford

Outcomes- occupational health nurses

- Public health worker
- Commercial worker
- Specialist nurse
- Educated

Confident professional selling skills to organisations

Not being sustained by education but talking about active approach

Outcomes – health visitors

- Educated – professionalised
- Child and family worker
- Public health worker
- Health visitors – different
- Nurses ?
- Controlled by management and organisation

Tension

Bringing it all together

- Is there an shared identity of SCPHN?
- Normalisation -Power
- SN, OHN and HV different trajectories of professional identities, education part of this but not the same for the different groups