

Individualised generic personal support for postgraduate medical trainees facing high stake outcomes related to examination failure.

Davies SJ¹, Cohen DA², Walsh LA,¹ Rhydderch M², Gallen DD¹.

1) Wales Deanery 2) Individual Support Programme, Cardiff University.

Introduction

UK postgraduate medical training has GMC approved specialty curricula. The curriculum is competency based with assessment blueprinting across its entirety. Assessment of knowledge i.e. Royal College examinations can determine continued progress in training or successful exit from the programme with a Certificate of Completion of Training.

With a limited period of extended training within the Gold Guide repeated failure at these high stake examinations can result in termination from training with an Outcome 4 at ARCP.

Methodology

Since 2008 the Wales Deanery has agreed that trainees who are progressing well in other areas of their training other than failing to pass a high stake examinations are offered referral to the Individual Support Programme of Cardiff University. Consent to referral leads to three sessions of individual assessment, including:

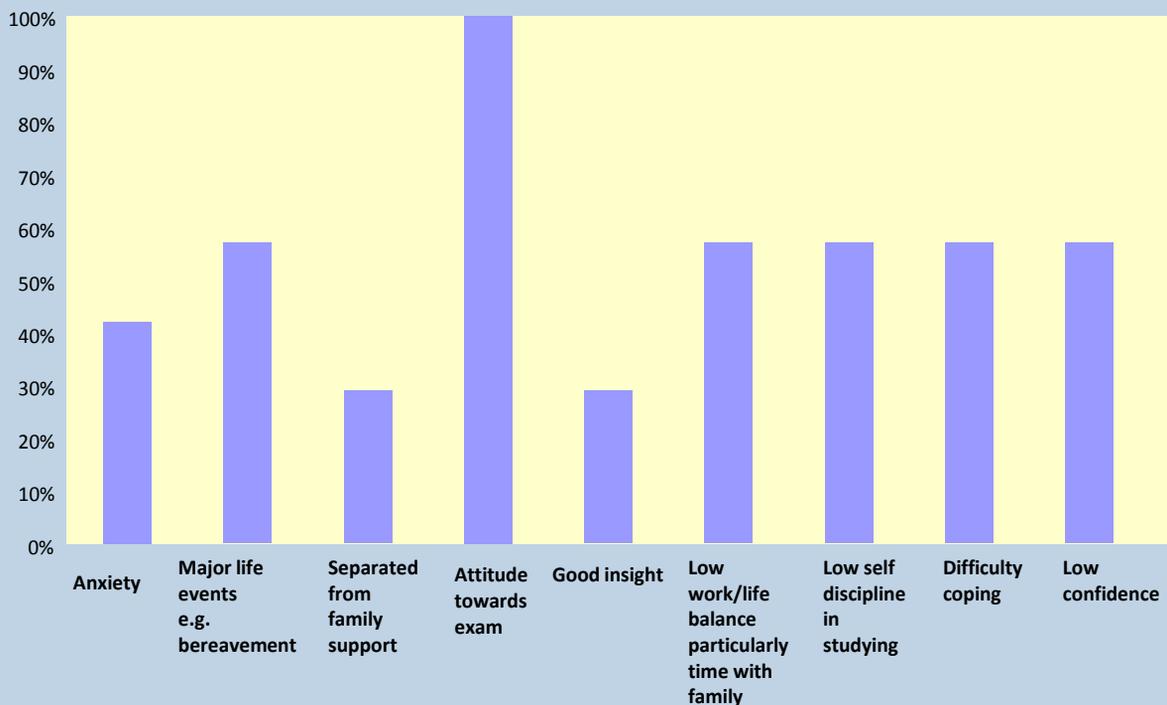
- occupational psychology
- personality typing
- communication skills

Up to five sessions of remediation focus on identified issues. This support is undertaken in parallel to ongoing specialty specific examination preparation.

Results

15 of the 16 (94%) trainees have passed the next attempt at the examination and proceeded to continue with specialty training or attained CCT. **14 more have commenced support.**

Issues recognised in doctors referred to the ISP with exam difficulties



Conclusion

We believe that the individual support provided for high stakes examination failure is a valuable commitment to keeping capable specialist trainees within training and enabling them to complete their training with a CCT.