

## Dramatherapy submission

Mary Burton (Occupational Therapist & Assistant Professor for Occupational Therapy & Course Director for AHP Return to Practice course at Coventry University)

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There is a national crisis of Dramatherapists missing from practice that needs to be addressed. It is essential that we are proactive in channelling this workforce with their currently untapped knowledge, skills, and experience back into health and care sectors. In 2022 Coventry University was successfully awarded a tender by Health Education England to create and deliver a blended course for Return to Practice. The target for 12 months was 50 returnees. By the end of the financial year, we had enrolled 100 former HCPC registrants.

### Method and Implementation:

- Embedded in Coventry University provision to enable returnees to access the full repertoire support and learning experiences.
- Aligned to the overarching themes of the HCPC Standards of Proficiency.
- Promotes autonomy and engagement of professional voice through self-audit and review against the four pillars of Professional Practice.
- Integrated interprofessional collaboration, peer learning and mentor support.
- Agile delivery that fits around the returnees' own needs.
- Having an open-ended enrolment ensured returnees could access the course as and when they were ready.

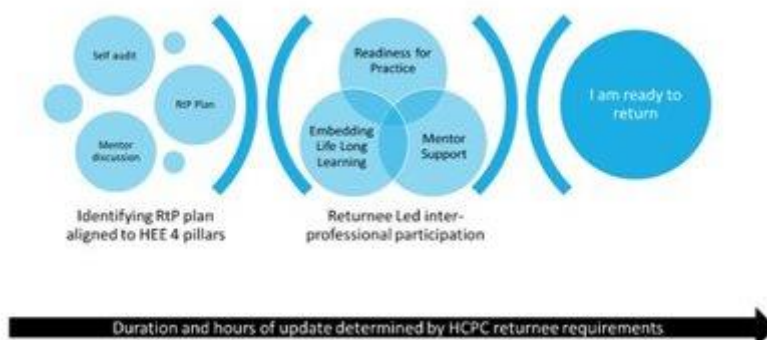


Figure one: Outline of Coventry University Return to Practice Course

Celebrating success – returning to the register and back in the workplace:

- Returnees are now completing re-registration with HCPC.
- Many of the returnees on course have already successfully returned to the workforce and are employed in range of roles including emergent areas such as primary care.
- Returnee feedback is overwhelmingly positive, describing it as life changing and equips them with the confidence, knowledge, and skills to practice.

- Returnees feedback highlights the design and agility of course has broken down barriers enabling them to return to practice.
- Employers feedback is positive in working with collective energy and commitment to maximize Return to Practice as a core part of their workforce strategy.

The impact across the country, the AHP regions, the professional bodies and the individual returnees has been a phenomenal result of the co-production; bringing the 4 Pillars to life from the creation and ongoing development of the course to the maximization of their contribution to the aim of improving health outcomes for all, providing better quality care, and improving sustainability of health and care services.

Quotes:

Sarah Buxton (Mentor)

**Return to Practice Comment:**

It is incredibly exciting to be able to mentor Dramatherapists on the AHP return to practice programme via Coventry University. The return to practice programme is a great way to enable those who have been out of practice to reconnect with their skills and take time to prepare getting back into the world of Dramatherapy. My role as mentor means that I am able to come alongside the returnee during their journey back into practice, offering support in whatever way is most suitable. One of the most important things that stands out on this course is the recognition that the individuals engaging are already professionals and are treated as such. Each returnee brings a wealth of experiences, training and skills and the course, and my role as a mentor, works to acknowledge and validate this and offer support and encouragement to that individual/returnee to step back into practice with confidence!

