INTRODUCTION AND AIM

While schools are an appropriate setting for children to learn health messages, the delivery of health education is varied throughout England. Historically, school nurses (SNs) have been involved in the delivery of health education.

e-Bug is a European project that educates young people aged 5 to 18 about prudent antibiotic use, hygiene and the spread, treatment and prevention of infection. The e-Bug resources comprise of teacher resource packs including lesson plans, activities and worksheets, as well as an interactive student website hosting games, quizzes, fact sheets and much more.

AIM: To determine if the e-Bug resources could be used by informal educators, specifically school nurses, and how the resources might need to be adapted to better suit use.

METHODS

- Qualitative interviews and focus groups were conducted with school nurses and school nurse assistants in four localities, and teachers in three localities.
- The interview schedule integrated aspects from the Theory of Planned Behaviour and Normalisation Process Theory.
- School nurses and teachers were recruited using convenience and snowball sampling.
- Interviews and focus groups were recorded and transcribed.
- Inductive analysis using NVivo 10 was undertaken.

SAMPLE

- 23 school nurses and 8 school nurse assistants took part in 13 interviews and 5 focus groups in four localities in England.
- 11 teachers took part in 8 interviews and 1 focus group in three localities in England.

DISCUSSION

- The role of the school nurse is varied across England, especially related to health education.
- There is no ‘one size fits all’ resource that would assist school nurses and teachers with educating young people about health and hygiene topics. This is due to differences in priorities and health education needs of school nurses and teachers.
- Changes to commissioning and priorities have decreased the time school nurses spend on health education. Teachers continue to need support with the delivery of health education.
- Given that school nurses and teachers are ‘stretched’, a resource such as e-Bug provides standardised, evidence based resources to teach these topics.

FINDINGS AND KEY THEMES

- Education and Teaching System
  - School nurses and teachers are ‘stretched’ professionally.
  - The role and priorities of SNs have changed in recent years.
  - There have been many changes to the educational system in recent years.
  - “We have a health promotion resource, it’s based in the library of the hospital, but their budget’s been cut quite dramatically over recent years.”

- School Nurse and Teacher Role
  - Teaching life skills is an important aspect of the teacher role.
  - “I think it’s their setting them up for life, isn’t it, their skills for life”
  - Many school nurses support schools with health education but do not teach it.

- Delivery of Health Education
  - SNs and teachers need hands on and interactive activities to teach young people about health.

- SNs view health education as an important priority; health education is not a priority for some teachers.
- SNs and teachers balance many competing priorities.
- “hygiene, how do you prevent, try and prevent, minimise the risk”
- Teacher’s main health education priority is the spread of infection
- SN’s work is ‘needs-led’
- Teacher’s main health education priority is the spread of infection

ADDITIONAL TEACHER THEME

- "It’d be great to have them in and helping with sessions and a visible presence in the school, but obviously their timetables don’t allow that”

- Teachers do not receive support from SNs with delivering classroom health education
- Teachers are confused about the role of SNs

ADDITIONAL SN THEME

- SNs manage relationships with schools, parents and students
- SNs collaborate with health professionals and school stakeholders
- SNs need resources or use what is available, even if they are dated
- SNs make their own resources

IMPLICATIONS

- Based on these findings, the e-Bug team is developing a training package for educators about the e-Bug resources and how to integrate them into teaching.
- The training will be piloted throughout summer 2015 and available online in September 2015.

CONTACT

If you would like more information or want to be involved in piloting the e-Bug training package, please contact us:

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