



Sharing experiences and shaping culture; the role of Schwartz Center Rounds in a large Children's Hospital

Jan Hughes, Alistair JA Duff, John WL Puntis

Background

- A significant proportion of NHS staff report feeling unwell due to work-related stress.
- Between 2009 and mid-2015, 88 (37%) UK public healthcare organisations had adopted Schwartz Rounds
- Adopting organisations and organisations adopting rounds earlier tended to perform better on staff and patient experiences compared with non-adopting organisations or organisations adopting post-Francis report, 2013 (Robert et al, *BMJ Open* 2017)
- Attendance at Rounds has been associated with significant improvement in psychological wellbeing, including increased empathy and compassion for patients and colleagues, and positive changes to clinical practice (Mabin et al. 2017 *in press*)

Implementing Schwartz Rounds in the Leeds Children's Hospital

- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) became licenced to run Rounds in April 2014 with lead clinician (JWP) and facilitator (AJAD) training being completed 6 months later
- Rounds began in 2015 by assimilating them into a weekly, term-time academic 'Grand Round' forum. These were well established academic sessions with lunch provided
- The main challenge was integrating Rounds into a traditional academic programme was to transition from traditional medical-meeting approach and problem-solving to a more reflective practice one
- We sought to evaluate our first year's Rounds with a view to tracking sustainability and integration.

Paediatric Schwartz Rounds in the First Year

'Working in a Regional Cardiac Unit when it was closed due to safety-concerns'

'Decision-making about whether to attend patient-funerals'

'The death of a new-born on Christmas day'

'Junior doctors experiences of an acute assessment unit'

'A case of fabricated illness with family court proceedings'

'Caring for very sick children who may not survive'

'Christmas cards' - thank-you letters from patients

'Being a clinician and parent of a child with a chronic condition or disability'

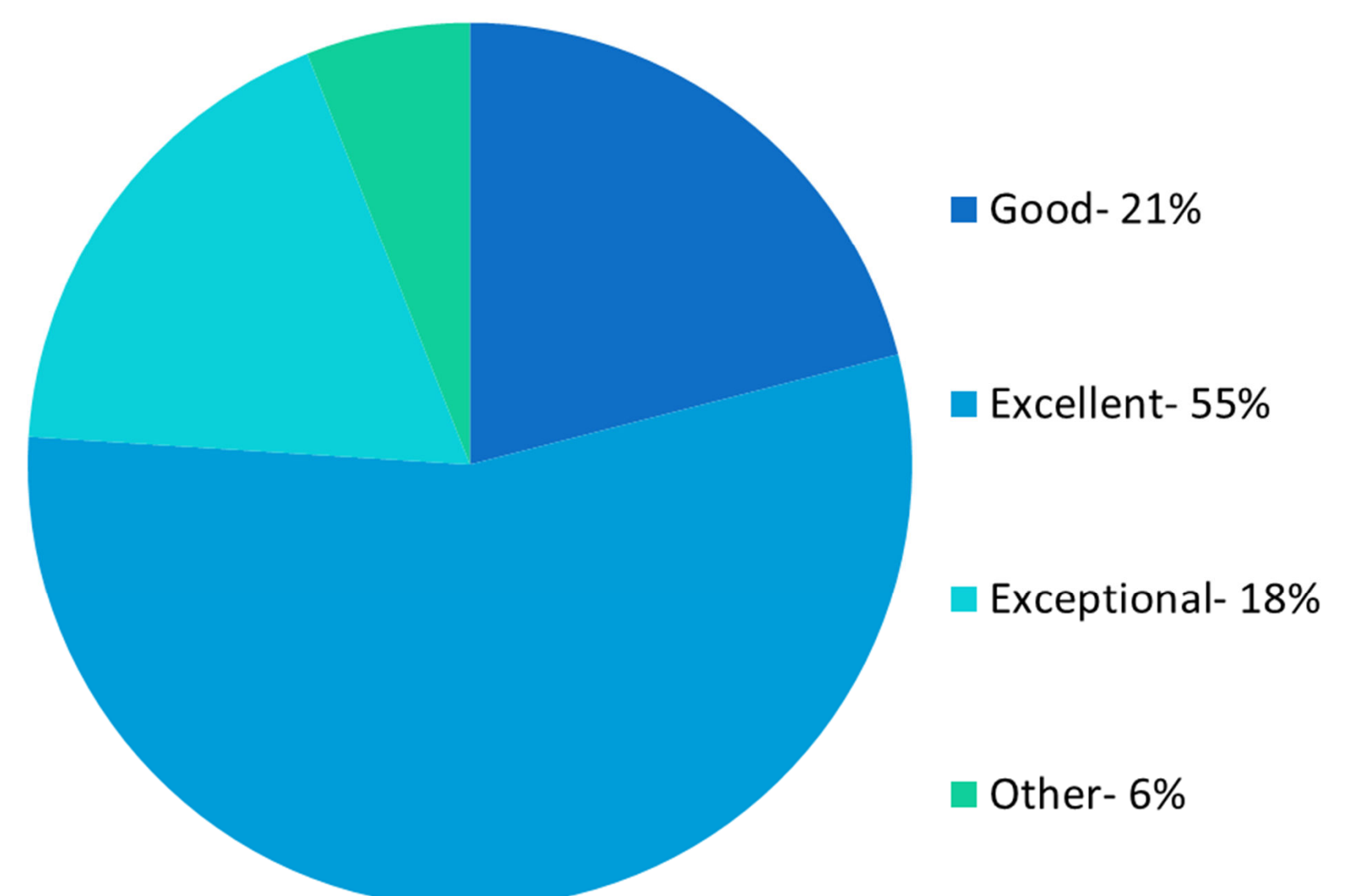
'A day in the life of a Children's Hospital manager'

'What I learned but was never taught'

Findings

The response ratings for 8 individual feedback items showed that all were rated as 'agree' or above by a minimum of 81% of participants (e.g. 'Today's Round will help me work better with patients' which was rated 'agree' or above by 85% of participants)

Staff Opinions on Schwartz Rounds



'I think we all learn such a lot by sharing, we all need to look out for each other more than ever'
'All four speakers exemplified all that is good about the NHS'

Conclusions

- Integrating Rounds into a traditional Grand Round forum led to initial difficulties in avoiding medical-meeting, problem-solving amongst the audience. Yet in the long-term, this afforded a shift to reflective practice over time, at a pace that was comfortable.
- Rounds have been sustained over 2 years, leading to some individual reflective practice supervision and conversations about well-being at work amongst medical staff. Demand for Rounds from clinical areas were beyond the capacity of the trained team
- Our next steps are to build on this foundation by establishing another facilitating team with training beginning in 2018
- We also aim to provide Rounds and 'Pop-Up' Rounds to ward-based staff.