

Background

Learning cafes are being increasingly utilised in undergraduate education as a safe, informal environment for learning. They are an effective and refreshing learning style promoting peer-peer learning and are enjoyed by/beneficial to student attendees.

We aimed to extrapolate learning cafés to qualified staff across the Trust to discuss antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In doing so we can both address the issue of AMR as well as provide a novel learning experience for staff.

Summary of Work

The World Café design was used with the focus of using antimicrobials in 'Clinically Futile Scenarios' as from previous experiences and literature, having some controversy generally sparks better discussion.

An MDT pilot group was set up including patient representatives to decide the 'questions' which would provide the café discussion points.

The cafes were then run across all sites of the Northumbria Trust on successive dates with feedback collected after each one.

Summary of Results

The Cafes were attended by a total of 96 participants over 3 cafes. There was a good variety of staff in attendance including medical, nursing and pharmacy staff.

Feedback was positive from the staff in attendance with the mix of professions and skills being praised as a real driving factor for the varied and interesting discussion. All those who attended said they would attend again if the opportunity arose and would be keen for the format to be used for future learning events.

Discussion and Conclusion

The Antibiotic Café has been shown to be an effective method of informal peer-peer learning where qualified health care professionals can share expertise and experiences for collaborative learning.

It provides a novel platform for raising awareness of AMR and provides staff with learning/CPD-opportunities.

Whilst there was a range of attendees, it was noted certain staff groups e.g. junior doctors and non-clinical staff were limited therefore this can be addressed going forward.

Take Home Message

Learning cafe's provide a fun, interactive peer-peer learning opportunity at an undergraduate level but can be extrapolated to a post-graduate, professional context as well. Qualified staff enjoy the informal style of a learning café and it can be used as a platform to address topical issues e.g. antimicrobial resistance.