



MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester

SERVICE-LEARNING CONFERENCE
*PERSPECTIVES, PARTNERSHIPS AND
PRACTICE, 15TH NOVEMBER 2023*

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, THE FACULTY OF
BIOLOGY MEDICINE AND HEALTH, THE UNIVERSITY OF
MANCHESTER

FACILITATING STUDENTS TO DEVELOP
EFFECTIVE CLINICAL PARTNERSHIPS IN VOICE
THERAPY FOR TRANS AND NON-BINARY
INDIVIDUALS

DR SEAN PERT

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SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST

THE INDIGO GENDER SERVICE VOICE & COMMUNICATION THERAPY (VCT) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

- Only 16 Gender Identity Services (GICs) in the UK
- Indigo is one of three Primary care Services based in the community
- The BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy programme is the only UK degree to have an on-site clinic for trans and non-binary people
- Only service to have cutting-edge computerised voice assessment (Pert & Porter, 2023)

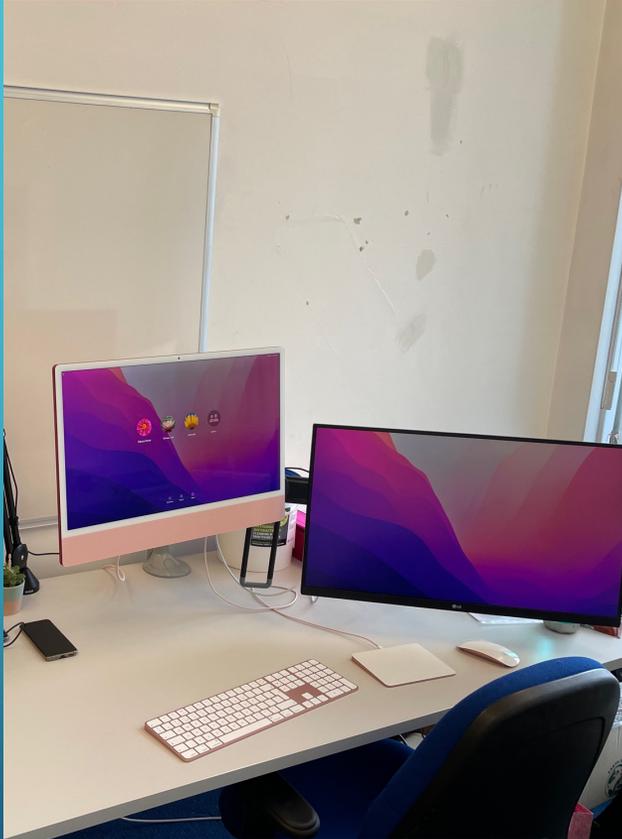
BENEFITS FOR SERVICE USERS

- Volunteers and students on clinical placement means more people with knowledge of the voice able to support service users with exercises
- Breakout rooms for those service users who need a higher level of support (in-person and online)
- Community share cultural knowledge with students
- High levels of satisfaction regarding student support reported by Service Users (Pert, 2018)

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- Transferrable clinical skills around voice, writing case notes, neurodiversity, bilingual clients, and group working (Pert et al., 2021)
- Specific clinical knowledge about trans voice and communication therapy (several former students who have volunteered now work in this specialist field)
- Cultural knowledge of trans and non-binary people – more likely to accept referrals and educate others in the profession

EQUIPMENT



- Head set microphone
- Amplifier
- Computer
- Recording software
- Analysis software
- See Curtis (2023)



(Curtis, 2023)

<https://www.jamescurtisphd.me/tutorials/voice/acoustic-analysis-of-voice>

STUDENTS SAID:

“Thank you for the opportunity to work with an underserved community; it has been a real pleasure to help support trans and gender-diverse people.

If the clinic had not been so closely allied with the university, I would not have had the opportunity to learn about voice therapy in such depth, and I am grateful to those service users who allowed me to share their journeys.”

“I found working alongside Ellisia and Sean at the Indigo to be a valuable learning experience. It has been enlightening to learn the importance of our role as Speech & Language Therapists in trans healthcare, where I learned how to tailor support to each individual's needs. I have been able to learn through the exposure and continuous growth gained through my volunteering at Indigo.

I was part of a team that built a safe and inclusive environment for everyone, using feedback from each other to build better support and create an invaluable experience. The importance of this service was reflected in every interaction I've had with the people I've met through it, and I look forward to learning and growing even more with Indigo.”

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