

Oxford Paediatrics Hub

A networking platform for trainees, by trainees

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Aims:

- Increase peer-to-peer networking and collaboration
- Improve communication between deanery and trainees
- Enhance sub-specialty interest development

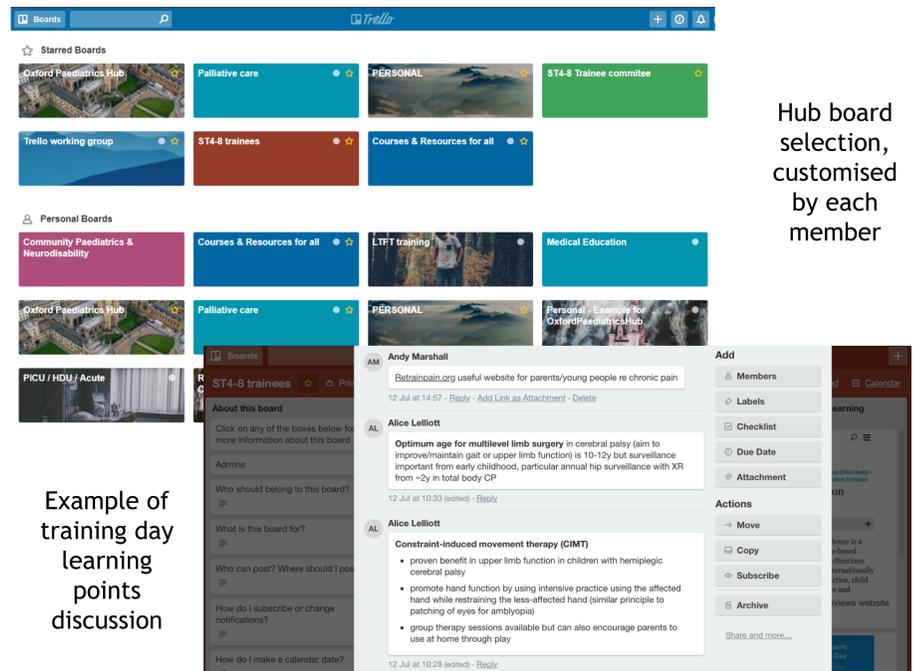
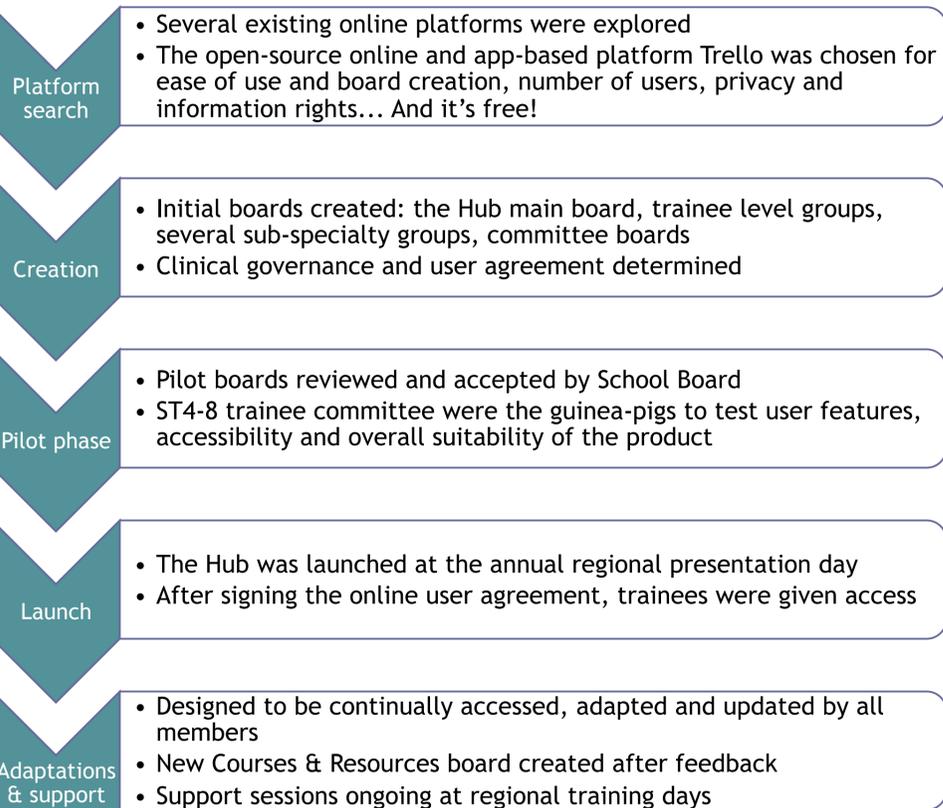
Background:

Until now, Oxford School of Paediatrics has communicated with trainees on an ad-hoc basis by email or an infrequently updated school website. Our survey of trainees within the region found that 94% accessed the website 'never', 'once a year', or 'a few times a year'.

Furthermore, networking between trainees is limited by time constraints and geography. The main communication channel was a Facebook group. Although 75% of trainees reported viewing posts at least once per month, active engagement was low with two thirds of trainees responding to posts 'never' or 'less than once a year'. Many thought that Facebook was insecure, not suited to professional discussions, and that information was too easily missed.

With morale among junior doctors at an all-time low₁ and training programmes seeming increasingly inflexible₂, we set out to develop a networking platform to enhance communication and collaboration, support trainee education, and encourage sub-specialty interest.

Project development:



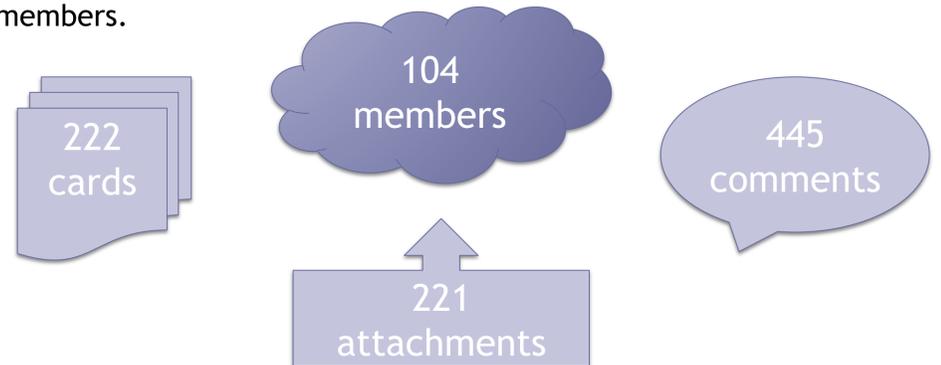
Example of training day learning points discussion

Challenges:

- Encouraging initial user sign-up, particularly those who are not naturally 'IT literate' or activated learners
- Developing a reliable and sustainable system for Hub maintenance
- Ensuring the balance of trainee's freedom to post whilst maintaining appropriate data protection/confidentiality (user agreement signed at first use)

Outcomes:

The Hub launched in May 2017 and is now in daily use. Most members are paediatric trainees and their close work colleagues, with a few consultants with an interest in education or key roles within the region also included. All content is collaboratively generated by members.



There are four key areas with high volume of usage:

- Oxford Paediatrics Hub main board
- Courses and Resources for all
- ST4-8 Trainees
- ST4-8 Committee

The sub-specialty boards are under development, with areas including PICU/Acute, Neonatology and Palliative Care evolving with career support, information sharing and discussion topics.

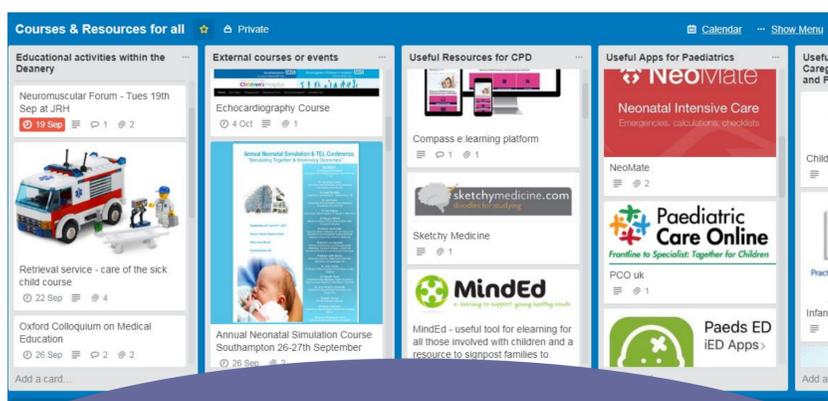
Hub members are able to access training information, share and discuss with colleagues and engage in their chosen sub-specialty groups in one integrated platform. Some have even created personal boards to extend the use of Trello to other aspects life.

Next steps:

- Ongoing support for new members
- Development of further group and sub-specialty boards
- Follow-up survey of trainees to assess the impact on intradeanery communication and networking
- Potential expansion to other regions and specialties

References:

1. General Medical Council. The State of Medical Education and Practice in the UK. Published October 2016.
2. General Medical Council. Adapting for the Future: A plan for improving the flexibility of the UK postgraduate medical training. Published March 2017.



Try a taster of the Hub now:

goo.gl/YWNpua

