

Introduction and Aims

In 2016, St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (STHK) decided to employ a Clinical Librarian (CL). On appointment in August 2016 the new Clinical/Outreach Librarian was tasked with establishing the Clinical Librarian Service across STHK.

The Mersey Regional Burns Service contacted the CL in November 2016, following promotion via the Library and Knowledge Service website ⁽¹⁾, blog, twitter page and the STHK wide daily global email. This resulted in a series of meetings with the Lead Consultant and Research Nurse to discuss what the Burns Service hoped to gain from utilising the Clinical Librarian Service and what would be the best way to make this happen.

Two aims were identified:

- To increase the use of evidence based literature in everyday practice by Burns and Plastics staff by increasing their awareness and access to the STHK Library and Knowledge Service.
- To increase the amount of research and publications produced by Burns and Plastics staff.

Timeline

2015/16: No Clinical Librarian service. Library and Knowledge Service short staffed from November 2015.

2016/17: CL service commences August 2016 and begins working with Mersey Regional Burns Unit in November 2016.

2017-2018: CL working with Mersey Regional Burns Unit for entire 12 month period.

Methods

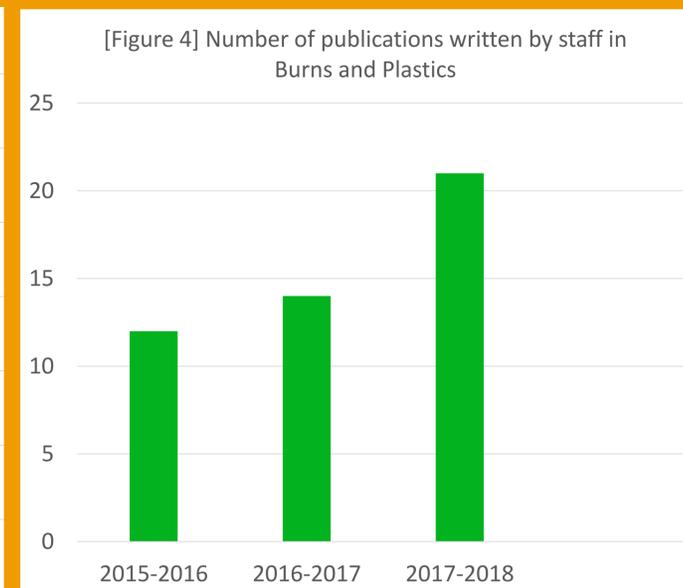
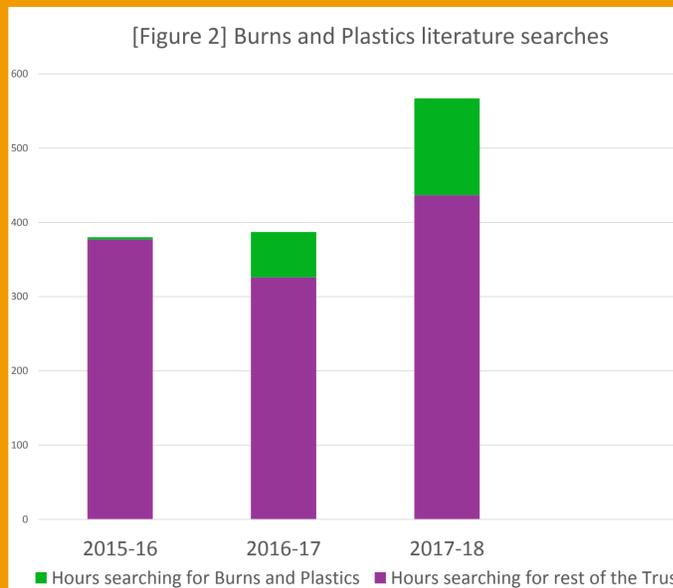
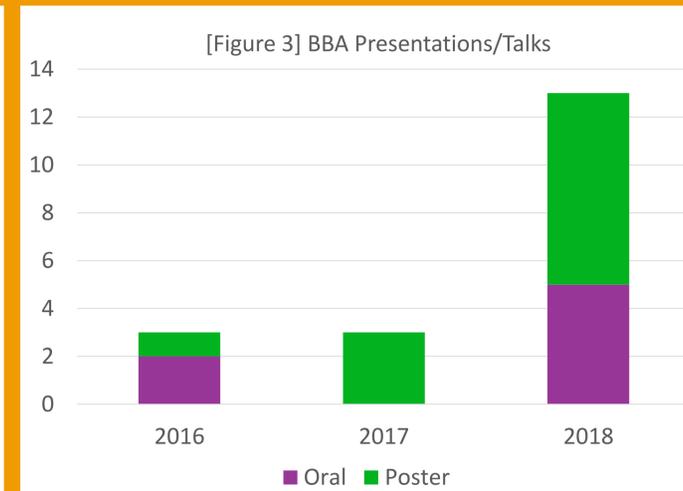
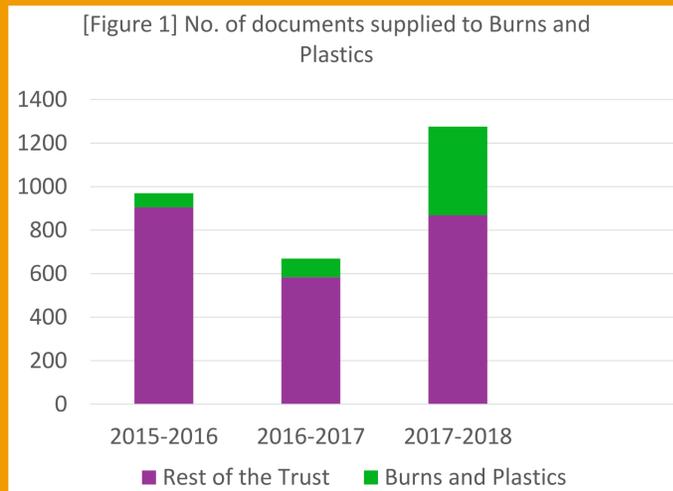
A short (30-45min) weekly MDT meeting was established. Attended by Burns and Plastic consultants, junior doctors, medical students, nurses, a variety of allied health staff, psychologists as well as a psychiatry consultant and microbiology consultant. The meeting was an opportunity for the CL to embed herself within the Burns team and ensure that she is the first point of contact to help with the team's information needs.

In order to assess the impact of the Clinical Librarian Service in general, and the effect of the work done with the Mersey Regional Burns Service in particular, statistics were collected over a three year period (April to March). These three years reflect the year prior to the instigation of the Clinical Librarian Service, the year in which the service started and the first complete year with the Clinical Librarian Service in place.

Impact on Library and Knowledge Service

In 2015/16, 65 documents were supplied to staff working for Burns and Plastics. This made up 6.7% of the total no. supplied to STHK staff (970 documents). In 2016/17 supply of documents to Burns and Plastics increased to 85, making up 12.71% of the total no. supplied to STHK staff. In 2017/18 document supply to Burns and Plastics totalled 407, making up 31.9% of the 1,276 documents supplied to the whole of STHK [Fig. 1]

In 2015/16 a total of 3 hours was spent on searches for the Burns and Plastics team, this made up only 0.79% of the total time spent on searches for STHK (380 hours). In 2016/17 the total time spent searching across the whole Trust was down to 326 hours, but the number of hours spent on searches for Burns and Plastics increased to 61. with searches for Burns and Plastics now making up 18.71% of the total. And finally, in 2017/18, the number of hours spent searching increased dramatically to 564, 130.5 of which (23.14%) were spent on searches for Burns and Plastics [Fig. 2]



The searches carried out were for a wide range of purposes, including direct patient care issues (such as the purchase of a new bath), updating SOPs (standard operating procedure)s and patient information leaflets, keeping staff up to date on new products, (such as dressings and pain relief) and for publication/research.

In 2015/16 only 2 of the top 10 journals accessed online via OpenAthens by STHK staff were Burns and Plastics Journals. In 2016/17 this increased to 4 of the top 10 and in 2017/2018 5 out of the 10 journals accessed were Burns and Plastics journals.

This increases even further when dermatology journals are taken into account. A number of therapies for dermatological conditions are provided by Burns and Plastics, including various laser therapies and treatment of conditions such as necrotising fasciitis, Steven Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis. With these journals included there were 3 Burns, Plastics and Dermatology journals in the top 10 in 2015/16, 5 in 2016/17 and 7 in 2017/18.

Impact on Burns Service

In 2016 and 2017 there were 3 presentations by the Mersey Regional Burns Service at the British Burn Association Annual Scientific Meeting. Note that the Scientific Meetings are held in May, so the 2017 meeting occurred before the instigation of the Clinical Librarian Service. In 2018, after the CL had been working with the Burns Service for over 12 months, presentations increased to 13 [Fig. 3] (2,3,4)

In 2015/16, 12 published articles were written by Burns and Plastics staff. In 2016/17 this grew to 14 articles. Taking into account the time taken for an article to reach publication it is unlikely that the Clinical Librarian Service was involved in this rise. In 2017/18 there was a more marked increase, with 21 articles produced by Burns and Plastics staff [Fig. 4]

Conclusion

Attending a weekly 45 minute Burns MDT meeting has resulted in the Clinical Librarian achieving the agreed aims of increasing the use of evidence based literature by Burns and Plastics staff and increasing the amount of research and publications produced by Burns and Plastics staff by increasing their awareness and access to the STHK Library and Knowledge Service.



References

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- British Burn Association. 2018. *Annual Meeting 2018: conference book*. [ONLINE] Available at : https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3f_9EH1fz5-dmF4em5SNuHfSnDpDY1ZqYXRkdWd1MIUjQQTlW/view. [Accessed 19 September 2018]
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