Platform for Practice Activity: Exploring the relationship between a platform for practice, clinical and/or non-clinical practice demands

This activity assumes you or the colleague/supervisee/mentee you are supporting, have/has already populated a platform for practice template. If you need a Platform for Practice template, you can download one from the resources and ideas section of The Permeable Practitioner Website where you will also find guidance about what to include in your platform for practice.

Now let's think about the diverse practice demands in a specified practice context:
Many health and care jobs involve a mixture of clinical and non-clinical practice demands. Providing clinical leadership or operational management of a service will entail meeting different types of practice demands and require you to foreground different dimensions of your platform for practice.

Think about two – four contrasting practice encounters. For example, you might think about a clinical encounter, an encounter where you are providing supervision and an operational encounter where you are representing your service. As with the clinical activity, include some straightforward and some less straightforward encounters.

For each encounter, what dimensions of your platform for practice do you have to draw on to meet the practice demands? You might capture this by having one populated platform for practice template for each scenario and highlighting the dimensions of your platform which are most useful to you.

You now have a collection of overlapping templates for different encounters, highlighting in each one what you foreground to support you to meet the demands in each encounter. As you compare these scenarios, is there anything missing or surprising? Are there dimensions of your platform for practice which are especially relevant or particular strengths? Are there dimensions of your platform for practice that are a bit rusty or could do with strengthening a bit? What scenarios do you feel most and least certain about? Are there things that you might need to add to your platform?

Using this activity to support individual professional learning or in supervision:
This activity can be done privately to support individual critical reflection and/or learning needs and subsequent professional development planning. You might use this activity and your findings to prepare for an appraisal or supervision and it can be especially useful if you are moving from a largely clinical role into one with more operational or leadership components. When shared in supervision, this exploration of an individual platform for practice in relation to day-to-day practice demands can provide a useful basis for supervisory conversations.

You might also do this activity with peers, comparing notes about the similarities and differences in your platforms for practice. Where can you support one another with professional development? If you are moving into a leadership role it can be helpful to think

more broadly about your peers and include those in similar roles but with different professional backgrounds and registrations.

Keep copies of your templates in your continuing professional development portfolio and consider capturing a critical reflection about the insights you have gathered from this activity – handy if you get called for portfolio audit by your professional body.