Involving service users as supervisors during work placement for social work students and practitioners – experiences described by the education and project-manager

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Theme: Prospects, methodology, research and innovatory practice in social work education

The purpose and context of the presentation: During the last five years, the social work education at the University of Agder has hired people with experience from being a dependents or user of the welfare system, to supervise our social work students during their practical placement. This project has been developed in cooperation with two local user organizations. VID Specialized University is inspired by the experiences of University of Agder, and spring 2016 we started to develop a pilot project, to offer a group of our social work students this kind of supervision in their practical placement from January to June 2017.

In this presentation we will discuss our experience according to plan and implement such a project. It has been important for us to involve all parts in the planning process, and students, service users, a user organization and teacher(s) from the social work education has developed the pilot project together.

A brief description of the methods used: The presentation will be based on preliminary results from this pilot project. Through evaluation from all the parts in the project, we will illuminate strengths and weaknesses in this process. Methods: individual interviews with students and focus group interviews with both service users and students who participated in the planning process.

Conclusion: Gain experience in involving service users as supervisors as well as involving all parts in the planning process.

We would like to give this presentation in the same session as University of Agder, authors Mette Fløystad Kvammen and Jorunn Gjedrem.

1 Diakonhjemmet University College merged January 1st 2016 with School of Mission and Theology, Haraldsplass Deaconess University College and Betanien University College and became VID Specialized University (vid.no)