

# Service-learning in Medical Education.

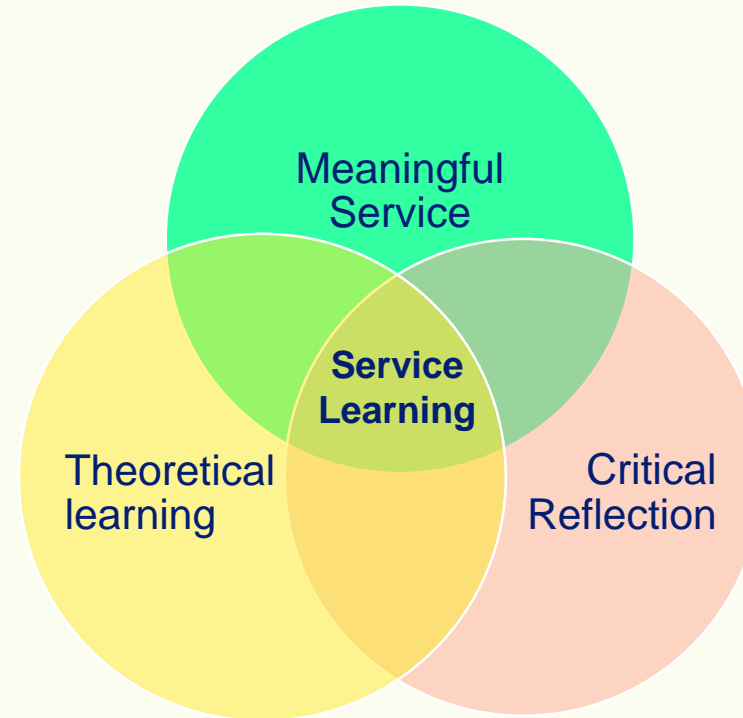
**David Longford.**

Senior Clinical Lecturer & Theme Lead for General Practice.



# What is Service-learning?

- An educational approach where a student learns **theories** in the classroom and at the same time works with a local organisation to provide a **meaningful service**, alongside **reflection** activities to deepen understanding.



# What is Service-learning?

- Types:

Direct  
(person-to-person)

Tutoring other  
learners

Volunteering at  
Nursing Home

Health-behaviour  
interventions

Indirect  
(behind the scenes)

Community  
Outreach

Fundraising

Environmental  
work

Advocacy  
(raising awareness and  
creating local action)

Campaigning

Working on local  
policy changes

Public Information  
campaigns



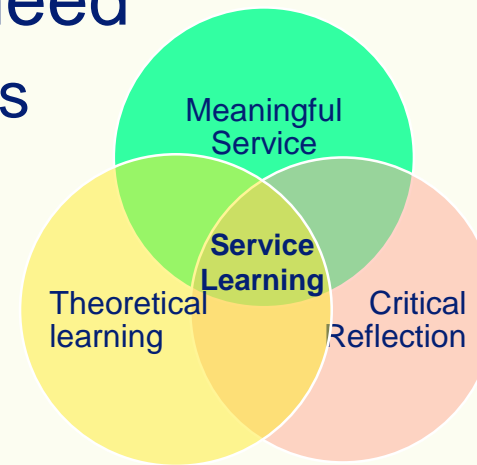
# Where/when can it be done?

- Electives
- Selectives
- Required module
- Basic science
- Clinical Placements



# Key points

- Theoretical learning
  - To ensure students have the necessary competencies and background knowledge
- Meaningful service = identifying a genuine need
  - Local needs-based or asset-based assessments
  - Sense of responsibility
- Reflection
  - Continuous and connected to the activity
  - To develop the desired professional qualities



# Meaningful service

'They (patients) really benefited, and obviously with the home visits, they were often people who couldn't get out of the house or were maybe in a particularly tough situation. I found that really beneficial, and really rewarding.'

'Responsibility was so nice and is so nice to have. Because in third-year if you're not there, it doesn't matter – you could just not be there. If that responsibility falls on your shoulders– your patient – I think it carries a lot more than it would if you were just observing

Shivani Tanna, Molly Fyfe & Sonia Kumar (2020) Learning through service: a qualitative study of a community-based placement in general practice, *Education for Primary Care*, 31:5, 305-310, DOI: 10.1080/14739879.2020.1759459



# Benefits of Service-learning

- Intra-interpersonal skills
  - Teamworking
  - Leadership
  - Communication
  - Diversity
- Professional Identity Development
  - Student role in the workplace, member of the team
  - Motivation



# Benefits of Service-learning

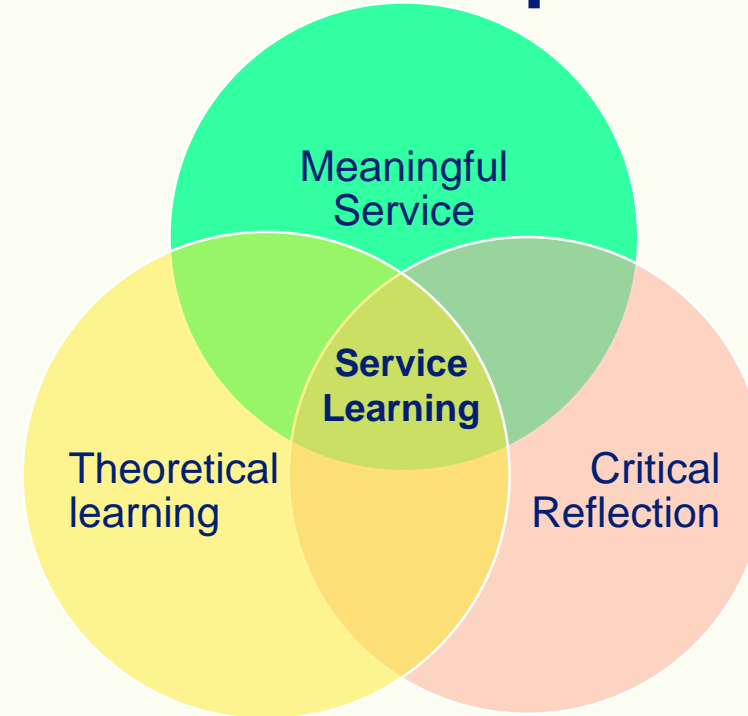
- Academic and Professional Skills
  - Clinical skills
  - Problem analysis and critical thinking
  - Self confidence
  - Public health determinants and policy
- Civic-engagement and Social Responsibility
  - Awareness of local needs and health disparities





# Examples/opportunities at Liverpool?

- Health in the Community (HIC)
- Disability Centre Placements (old)
- Electives?
- Informally on placements?
- Fund-raising activities?
- COVID-related
  - Student doctors helping on wards/GP surgeries
  - Vaccination



# Discussion

- Could we better introduce Service Learning into our course?
  - New formal elements?
  - Build on existing elements?
- How do we engage with the local area to ensure any elements are “meaningful”?
- How do we make it sustainable?



# References

- Trae Stewart & Zane C. Wubben (2015) A Systematic Review of Service-Learning in Medical Education: 1998–2012, *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*, 27:2, 115-122, DOI: 10.1080/10401334.2015.1011647
- Clifford D. Packer , Robert C. Carnell , Patricia M. Tomcho & Jacob G. Scott (2010) Development of a Four-Day Service-Learning Rotation for Third-Year Medical Students, *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*, 22:3, 224-228, DOI: 10.1080/10401334.2010.488467
- Jeremy A. Long Rita S. Lee Steven Federico, et al (2011) Developing Leadership and Advocacy Skills in Medical Students Through Service Learning, *Journal of public health management and practice: JPHMP* · July 2011, DOI: 10.1097/PHH.0b013e3182140c47
- Angela L Jefferson et al (2012) Medical student education program in Alzheimer’s disease: The PAIRS Program, *BMC Medical Education* · August 2012, DOI: 10.1186/1472-6920-12-80 ·
- Shivani Tanna, Molly Fyfe & Sonia Kumar (2020) Learning through service: a qualitative study of a community-based placement in general practice, *Education for Primary Care*, 31:5, 305-310, DOI: 10.1080/14739879.2020.1759459
- Tim Dornan, Henny Boshuizen, Nigel King, Albert Scherpbi (2006) Experience-based learning: a model linking the processes and outcomes of medical students' workplace learning: *Medical Education*, Volume 41, Issue 1 p. 84-91 DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2929.2006.02652.x



# Thank you.

Contact your Year Lead if you find any digital content difficult or impossible to use.

