



Horizon Scanning

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Overview

- What is Horizon Scanning
 - our definition and our product
- Why – demand for new type of current awareness
- Impact so far
- Background to the project – why collaborate?
- How it works – technology & training
- The future...



What is Horizon Scanning?

There are many definitions.

For us it is-

“any new information on-

- Best practice for service provision
- Innovation in service provision
- Future risk factors”



What is Horizon Scanning?

- Our product is really the first stage; harvesting the information
- To make Horizon Scanning successful, recipients also need to-
 - Analyse / appraise
 - Take on board changes to their service



The Product

- Currently 18 bulletins – mainly clinical topic areas
- Delivered to end recipient in email format
- Max 10 items per bulletin – summary & link
- Produced using a Wordpress blog
 - archiving
 - categorisation
 - RSS → monthly email newsletter



The Bulletins

- Alcohol
- Breast feeding
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular
- COPD
- Dental Health
- Diabetes Type 2
- Diagnostics
- Emotional Health & Wellbeing
- End of Life Care
- Immunisation
- Infection Control
- Obesity
- Patient Experience
- Sexual Health
- Stroke
- Sustainability
- Urgent Care



Why??

- Provider/commissioner changes – emphasis on service delivery and improving quality
- New information needs of commissioners, service managers and system leaders
- Different to finding clinical information
- Primary Care librarians found a common need



Impact Assessment

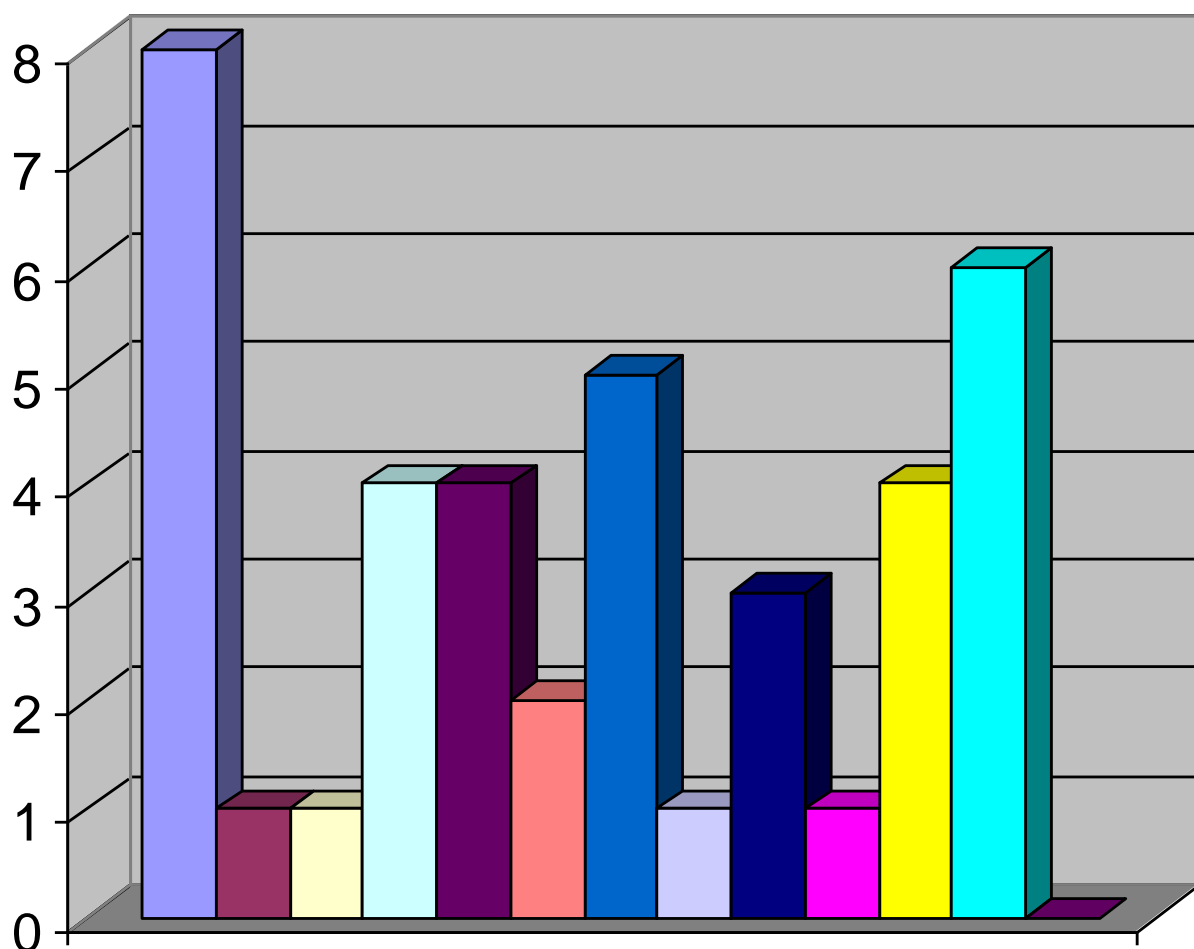
- Pilot Impact Assessment carried out by NHS Bury
- Initial results encouraging
 - Recipients felt the bulletins were relevant to their work
 - Most felt the bulletins were relevant to organisation's objectives
- Informal feedback also encouraging





Impact Assessment

How have the Horizon Scanning Bulletins had an impact on your work?

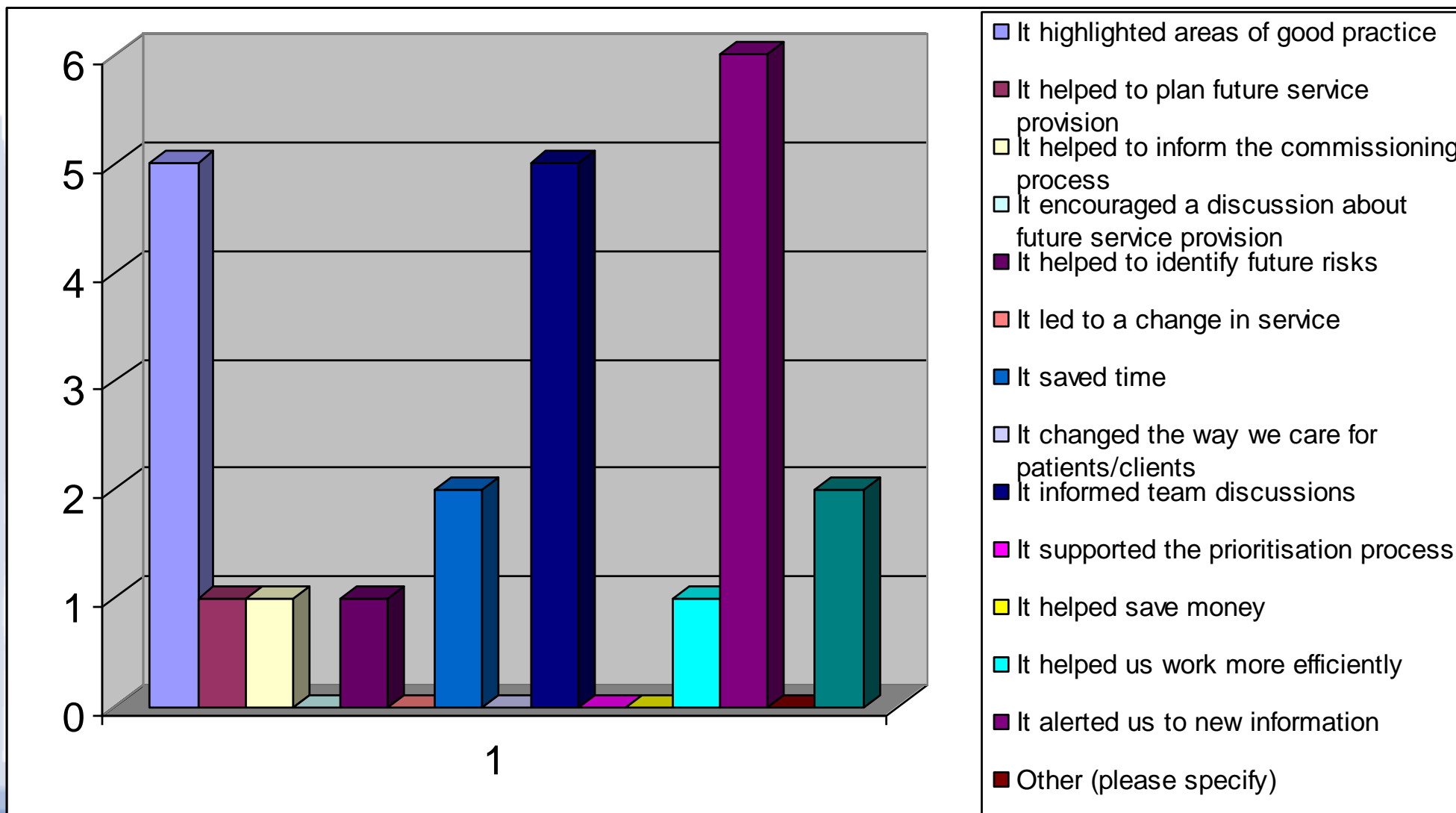


- It highlighted areas of good practice
- It helped me consider a service change
- It helped me suggest a service change
- It helped me to think about future service provision
- It encouraged a discussion about future service provision
- It helped me identify future risks
- It saved me time
- It changed the way I care for patients/clients
- I shared it with colleagues
- It helped me become more efficient
- It refreshed my memory about a news item or report
- It alerted me to new information
- Other (please describe)



Impact Assessment

How have the Horizon Scanning Bulletins had an impact on your organisation?



Beginnings...

- Idea discussed at Primary Care Librarians meeting
- Bigger than any one service could deliver
- Task group formed to look into possibilities
- ...became the Steering group; role to co-ordinate and lead project
- Set up Wiki, which acts as our handbook



Collaboration

- Collaboration is the key to success!
- Librarians put their efforts into producing a single bulletin...
- In return they have access to 18 bulletins covering a variety of topic areas
- So ROI= very good (?)



Content editors

- Usually 2 per topic – about 30 editors in total
- Set scope of their topic – consult with users
- Get RSS feeds, newsletters & trawl for content
- Assess content: does it meet our definition?
- Add content to blog, keeping it private until approved, then publish



Quality Assurance – the ‘CAG’

- Content Advisory Group – Expert members
- Could be a service manager, GP, specialist nurse, Director of..., etc
- Role is to approve the bulletin before publication
- Benefit: ‘sneak preview’ and kudos of editorial role
- Member of the steering group is also part of CAG



Editorial Process

- Important that quality is not compromised, even with unorthodox sources of information
- CAG may advise that an item is misleading or poor quality, or a better source of information
- Does it meet our definition of Horizon Scanning?
- Content editors will act upon comments, & keep audit trail



Technology - training

- Workshops held to train librarians involved
- Covered basics of using the Blog, RSS etc
- Peer support – chance to get together with fellow editor, discuss topic & share ideas
- Positive feedback – improving skills with new/Web 2.0 technologies has been a great benefit



How we work together

- Email list for everyone involved to keep up to date, share ideas, resources, frustrations etc
- Wiki used as handbook
- Workshops – initial training session, 12 month 'review' workshop
- Primary Care Librarians meetings; other LIHNN meetings



Challenges

- Technology: IT departments blocking Blogs
 - Can be a problem to get them unblocked
 - Most have been accommodating
- Relevancy of topics could change
- Prepared to drop/change topics if they cease to be relevant
 - Substance Abuse → Tobacco and Alcohol



The future...

- Expanding beyond primary care...
- Acute Trusts have joined and started to produce bulletins – again with a ‘non-clinical’ focus
- Surprising amount of similarities/crossover with primary care and acute
- We would like to expand and for other regions to be involved



How we see it working

- Potential for more bulletins; but NW at capacity
- Could we work together on a national scale?
- New bulletins could be taken on by participants in other regions...
- Steering group would set up network of regional co-ordinators for support
- Governance Document produced in draft
- Contact a member of the steering group to get involved





Questions & Discussion

