

## August Update

The project is now well underway – initial data received from project partners has produced a short list of recent graduate concerns, perhaps the most worrying of which is an issue of bullying in practice. These concerns are summarised in the ‘word cloud’.

A new questionnaire has been finalised. Its aim is to assess both the current concerns of recent graduate vets and also to gain an idea of how best to present the OERs we collect.

It will be promoted at the VDS graduate reunion in the beginning of September. In addition we have flyers containing information about the online survey complete with a url link. We will send these out, alongside project updates, to all organisations and persons who have expressed an interest, asking them to send it to any recent graduates they are in contact with. Finally we will advertise the questionnaire on the RCVS Charitable Trust website and in various publications. We are hoping to get a reasonable response this way. As an added incentive a prize draw of a years free membership of the RCVS Charitable Trust Library is being offered to five people who complete the survey online by 16<sup>th</sup> September and one person at the graduate reunion.

Thinking ahead we are organising focus groups at the VDS graduate reunions in October and November where we will be able to explore the use of OER in greater depth. Flyers have been produced in pdf format which will be kindly sent out alongside the other material for the reunions by the VDS.



- Employment contract
- Lack of support
- Stress
- Debts/budgeting
- Clinical knowledge/advice
- Bullying
- Practical skills
- Suicide
- Not knowing about other career opportunities/disillusionment
- Knowing your limits
- Confidence

A spreadsheet has been started; it contains the broad needs/concerns found thus far and initial ideas of resources and possible OERs to meet them. The needs/concerns included are shown in the box on the left. If you have any ideas of suitable OERs (or something which could be made into an OER), or know of anyone that does, please let us know.

We are in the process of contacting other people and organisations we think would be interested in either distributing questionnaires or providing OERs. If you can think of any suggestions please do let us know.

Finally, we have been searching the literature for evidence of new graduates’ concerns or employers’ impressions of their needs in practice. We have uncovered a wealth of research – mainly external to the UK and mostly repeating the same concerns over and over again. It would seem that the new graduates of today have similar problems to those of the past and that many problems remain throughout their career. If you would like to see summaries of the papers or the concerns raised please let us know.