



What have Clinical Librarians ever done for us? A case study with the Mersey Regional Burns Service

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Introduction and Aims

In 2016 St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (STHK) decided to employ a Clinical Librarian (CL). On appointment in August 2016 the new Clinical/Outreach Librarian was tasked with establishing the new Clinical Librarian Service across STHK.

The Mersey Regional Burns Service contacted the CL in November 2016, following promotion via the Library and Knowledge Service website⁽¹⁾, blog, twitter page and the STHK wide daily global email. This resulted in a series of meetings with the Lead Consultant and Research Nurse to discuss what the Burns Service hoped to gain from utilising the Clinical Librarian Service and what would be the best way to make this happen.

Two aims were identified:

- To increase the use of evidence based literature in their everyday practice by Burns and Plastics staff by increasing their awareness and access to the STHK Library and Knowledge Service.
- To increase the amount of research and publications produced by Burns and Plastics staff was also identified.

Methods

A short (30-45min) weekly MDT meeting was established. Attended by Burns and Plastic consultants, junior doctors, medical students, nurses, a variety of allied health staff, psychologists as well as a psychiatry consultant and microbiology consultant. The meeting was an opportunity for the CL to embed herself within the Burns team and ensure that she is the first point of contact to help with the team's information needs.

In order to assess the impact of the Clinical Librarian Service in general, and the effect of the work done with the Mersey Regional Burns Service in particular, statistics were collected over a three year period (April to March). These three years reflect the year prior to the instigation of the Clinical Librarian Service, the year in which the service started and the first complete year with the Clinical Librarian Service in place

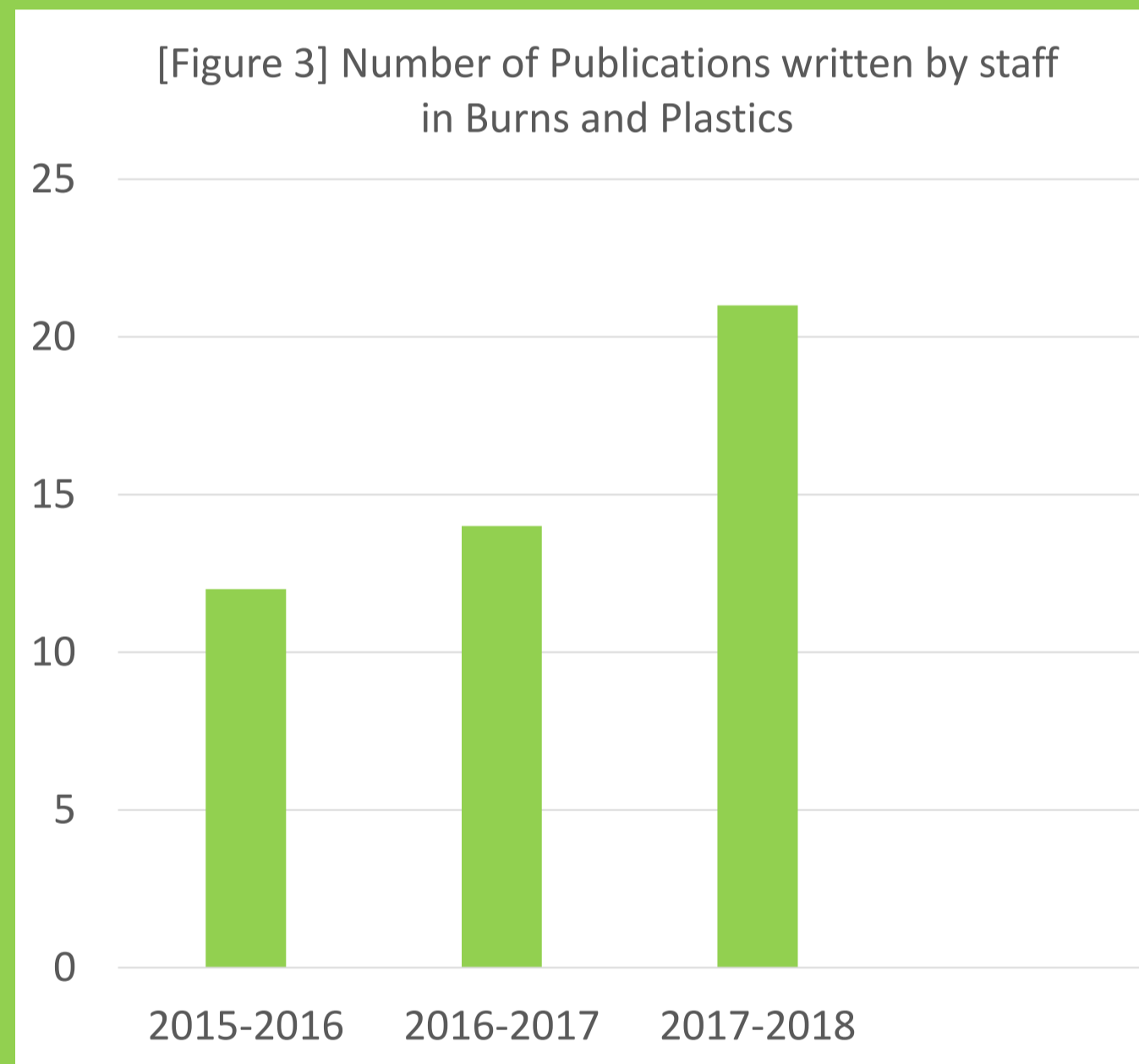
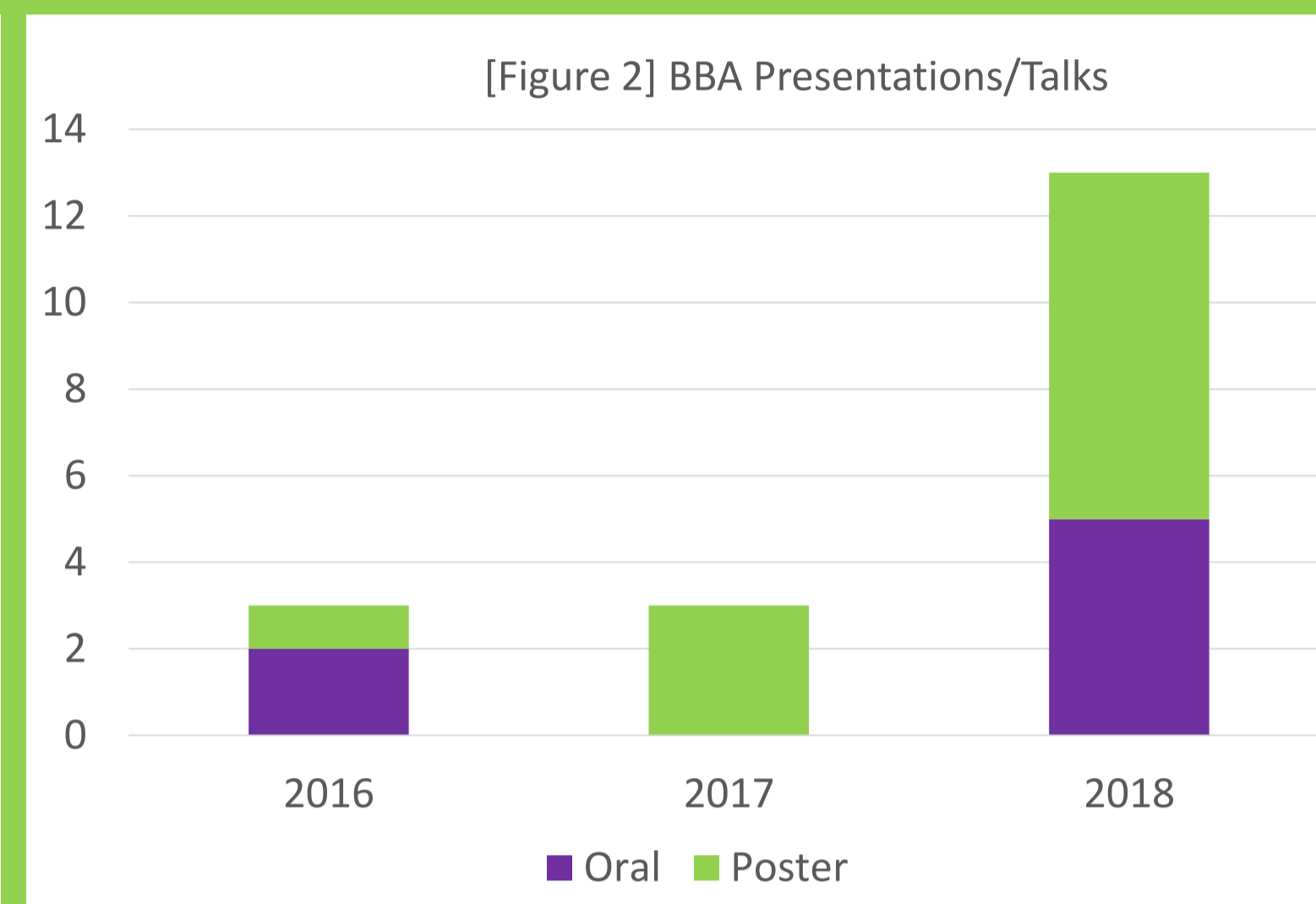
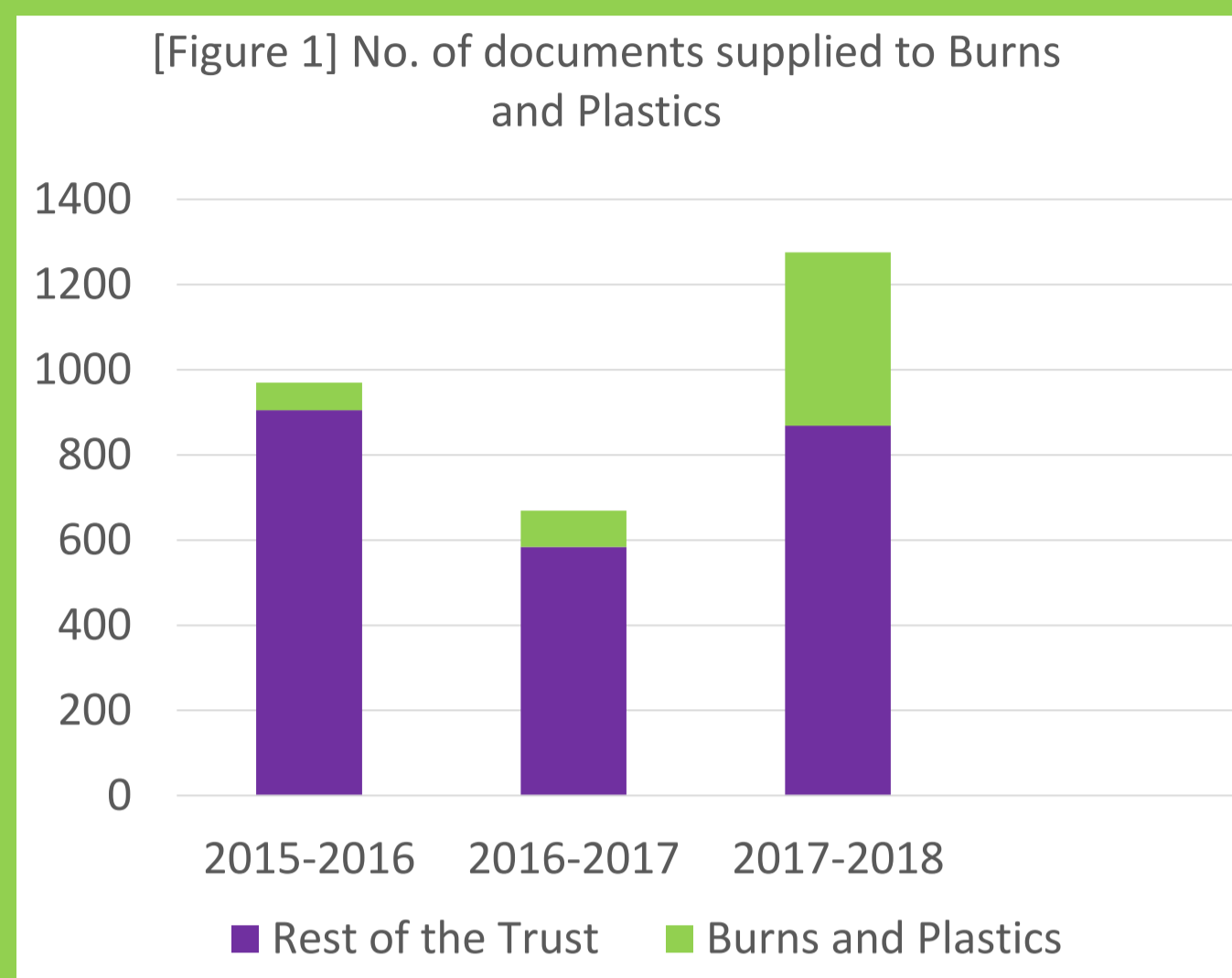
Examples of literature searches carried out for Burns and Plastics staff

Prophylactic flu-vaccination of burn patients (for publication & patient care)	Hydrotherapy for Burn Patients (for updating SOP*)
Acid attacks reported in the press over the past 18 months (for BBA presentation & publication)	
Evidence to support the purchase of a new bath (for patient care)	The use of Pentrox during burns dressing changes (for patient care)

* Standard operating procedure

Literature Searches

In 2015/16 a total of 3 hours was spent on searches for the Burns and Plastics team, this made up only 0.79% of the total time spent on searches for STHK (380 hours). In 2016/17 the total time spent searching across the whole Trust was down to 326 hours, but the number of hours spent on searches for Burns and Plastics increased to 61. with searches for Burns and Plastics now making up 18.71% of the total. And finally, in 2017/18, the number of hours spent searching increased dramatically to 564, 130.5 of which (23.14%) were spent on searches for Burns and Plastics.



In 2015/16 65 documents were supplied to staff working for Burns and Plastics. This made up 6.7% of the total no. supplied to STHK staff (970 documents). In 2016/17 supply of documents to Burns and Plastics increased to 85, making up 12.71% of the total no. supplied to STHK staff and in 2017/18 document supply to Burns and Plastics totalled 407, making up 31.9% of the 1,276 documents supplied to the whole of STHK [Fig. 1]

In 2016 and 2017 there were 3 presentations by the Mersey Regional Burns Service. Note that the BBA Annual Scientific Meetings are held in May, so the 2017 meeting occurred before the instigation of the Clinical Librarian Service. In 2018, after the CL had been working with the Burns Service for over 12 months, presentations increased to 13 [Fig. 2]^(2,3,4)

In 2015/16 12 published articles produced by Burns and Plastics. In 2016/17 this grew to fourteen articles. Taking into account the time taken for an article to reach publication it is unlikely that the Clinical Librarian Service was involved in this rise. In 2017/18 there were 21 articles produced by Burns and Plastics [Fig. 3]



References

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- British Burn Association. 2018. *Annual Meeting 2018: conference book*. [ONLINE] Available at : https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3f_9EH1fz5-dmF4em5SNUhFsnpDY1ZqYXRkdWd1MUJQQTlw/view. [Accessed 19 September 2018]
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- Health Education England. *Library, knowledge and information services*. [ONLINE] Available at: [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/libraries-and-knowledge-management#Clinical librarian](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/libraries-and-knowledge-management#Clinical%20librarian) [Accessed 19 September 2018]

What is a Clinical Librarian?

There are many definitions of 'Clinical Librarian' but most centre around the concept of providing evidence to support clinical decision making at the point of need. Health Education England⁽⁵⁾ describes the role as follows:

Your aim is to spend as much time as possible in the hospital working alongside clinical teams as they care for patients. You are part of a multidisciplinary team including doctors, nurses, therapists and managers.

You'll also:

- attend clinical meetings
- accompany staff on ward rounds as they visit patients
- conduct literature searches to find answers to evidence gaps

Timeline

2015/2016 : No Clinical Librarian Service, Library and Knowledge Service short staffed from November 2015
2016/2017: CL service commences August 2016 and begins working with Mersey Regional Burns Service in November 2016
2017/2018: CL working with Mersey Regional Burns Service for entire 12 month period

Conclusion

Attending a weekly 45 minute Burns MDT meeting has resulted in the Clinical Librarian achieving the agreed aims of increasing the use of evidence based literature by Burns and Plastics staff and increasing the amount of research and publications produced by Burns and Plastics staff by increasing their awareness and access to the STHK Library and Knowledge Service.

By becoming an embedded member of the team, the Clinical Librarian Service has changed the culture of the Burns Service by ensuring that future practice is evidence based and that staff share their experience and research with future Burns and Plastics staff via presentations and publications.

With the number of Clinical Librarian Services increasing both in the UK and internationally other Burns and Plastics Departments may find it beneficial to investigate the options available to them for working directly with a Clinical Librarian.

