

How to Establish a Multidisciplinary Course in a Post-Ockenden Era: A Success Story

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OBJECTIVES

- The Ockenden review 2021^[1] was the largest of its kind, publishing 15 immediate and essential actions (IEAs) for maternity units across England to improve care and safety.
- One such IEA emphasises multidisciplinary training - staff working together should train together.
- Maternity units commonly run emergency simulation sessions, these do not routinely address non-clinical failures highlighted by reports including escalation barriers, team dynamics and human factors.
- Opening a two-way communication channel between clinical and management staff can also be challenging.
- AIM: We sought to develop a free multidisciplinary training course for maternity staff addressing these issues and assessing for changes in attitudes towards perception of safety in the workplace.**

METHODS

- This is a descriptive study - a multidisciplinary faculty with an interest in education including obstetricians, anaesthetists and midwives designed the Post Ockenden Multi-Professional Training (POMPT) course at a University teaching hospital. After the pilot course, a bid for a £35,000 grant from Health Education England (HEE) was won to continue the course for 6 months.
- The pilot course ran in May 2022 exploring themes from the Ockenden report and take home messages from NHS resolutions for our local trust; delegate spaces were equally allocated to obstetricians, midwives and anaesthetists and numbers with a course capacity of 18 attendees.
- Due to popular demand, three further courses were held; there is currently a waiting list for upcoming sessions (the next course is in July 2023).
- Senior management including the CEO, Chief Nurse, Divisional Manager, Clinical Director, Associate Head of Midwifery attended the course and participated in discussions.
- Attendees anonymously rated the course and completed a standardised safety attitudes questionnaire pre-course, immediately and at least six months post course.
- Quantitative data was analysed with excel, thematic analysis was undertaken of qualitative data.



Figure 1a: POMPT course May 2022, HDU/ITU simulation

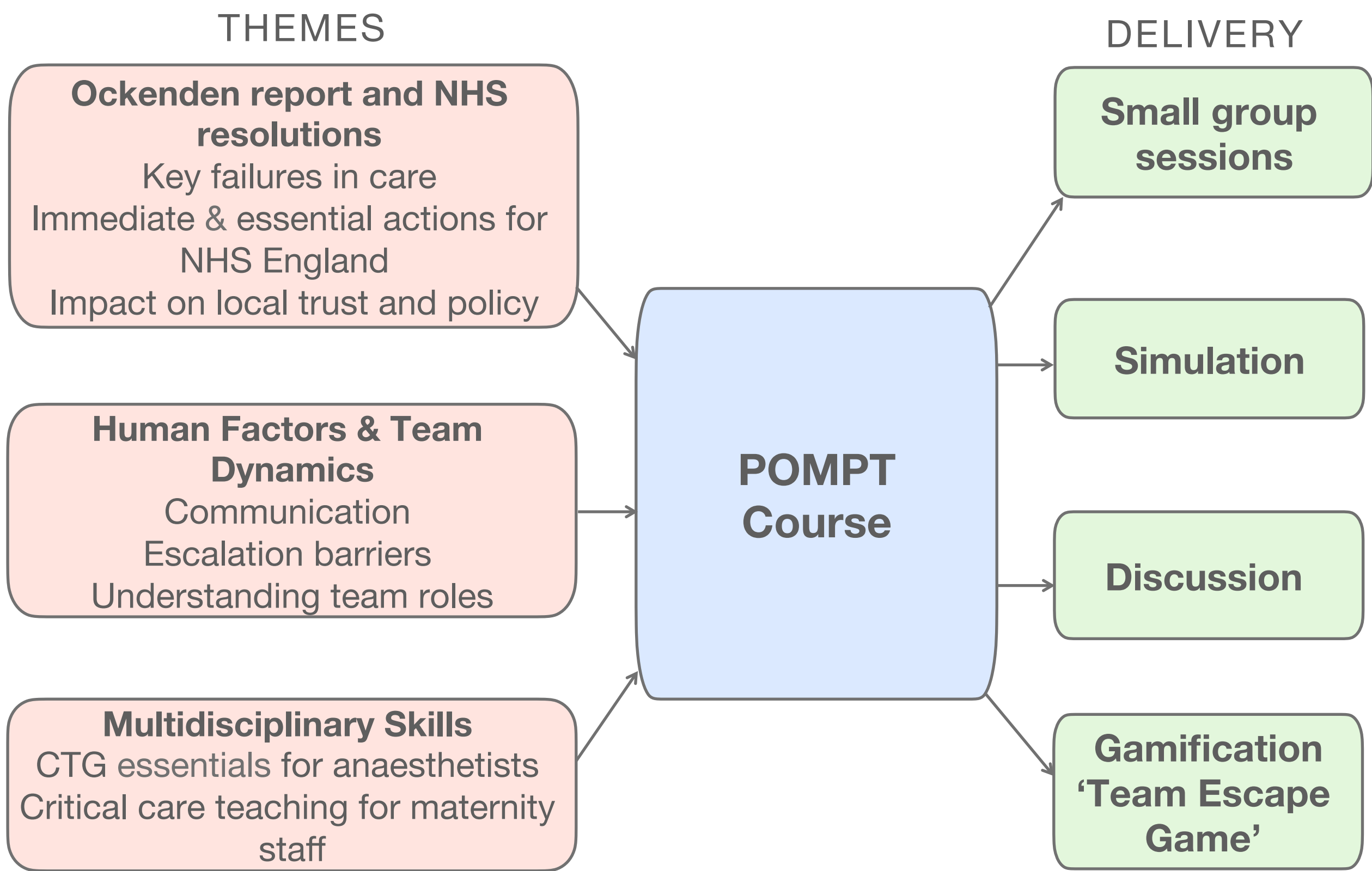


Figure 1b: Key themes and delivery methods of POMPT course

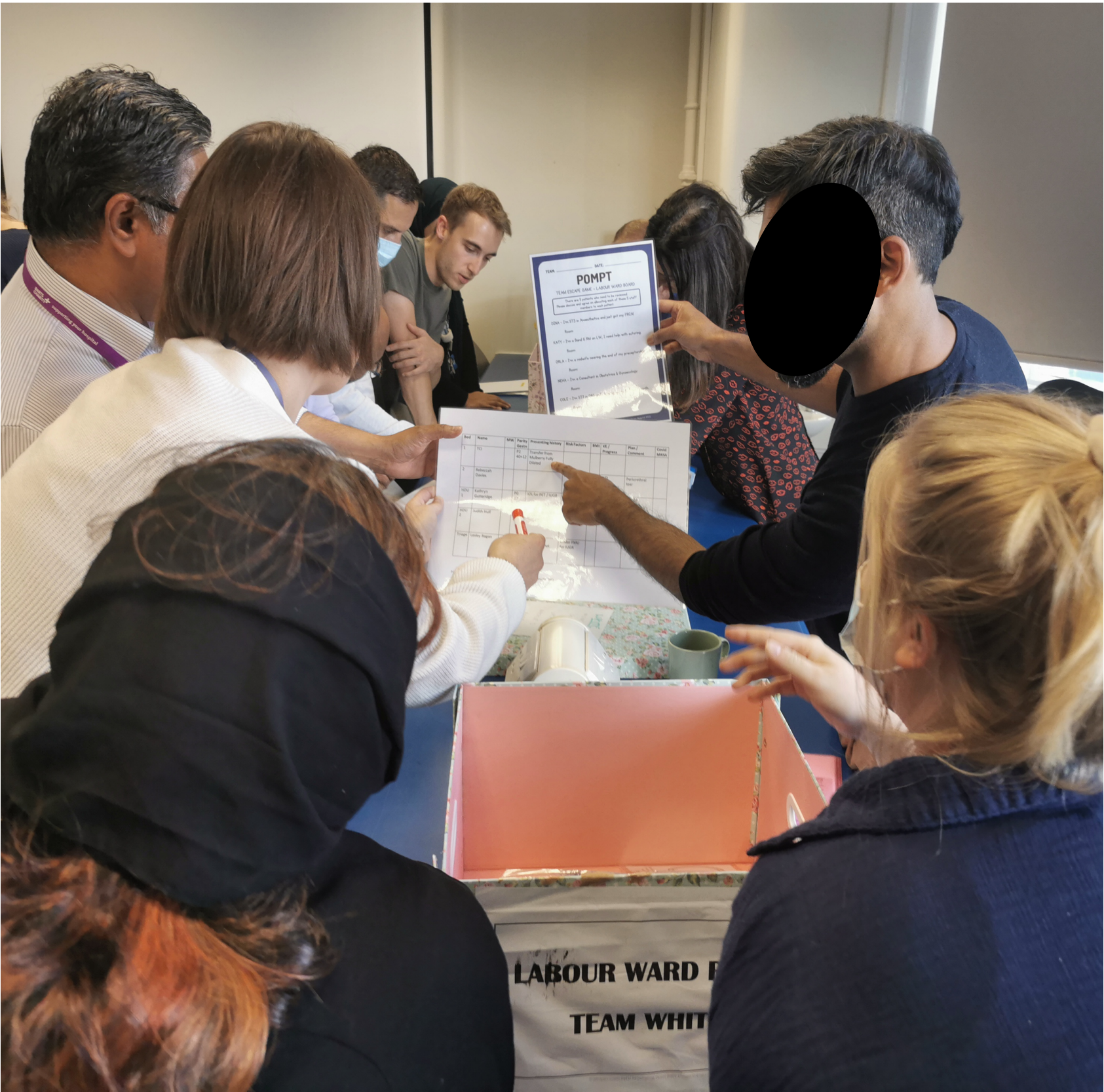


Figure 1c: POMPT course Sep 2022, introduction of escape game

RESULTS

- A total of 59 delegates attended the course between May 2022 to March 2023. Data for March 2023 was not available at time of poster (n=15).
- The mean course rating was 4.9/5.
- There was an immediate and long term improvement in the safety attitudes post attendance (Figure 3 & 4).

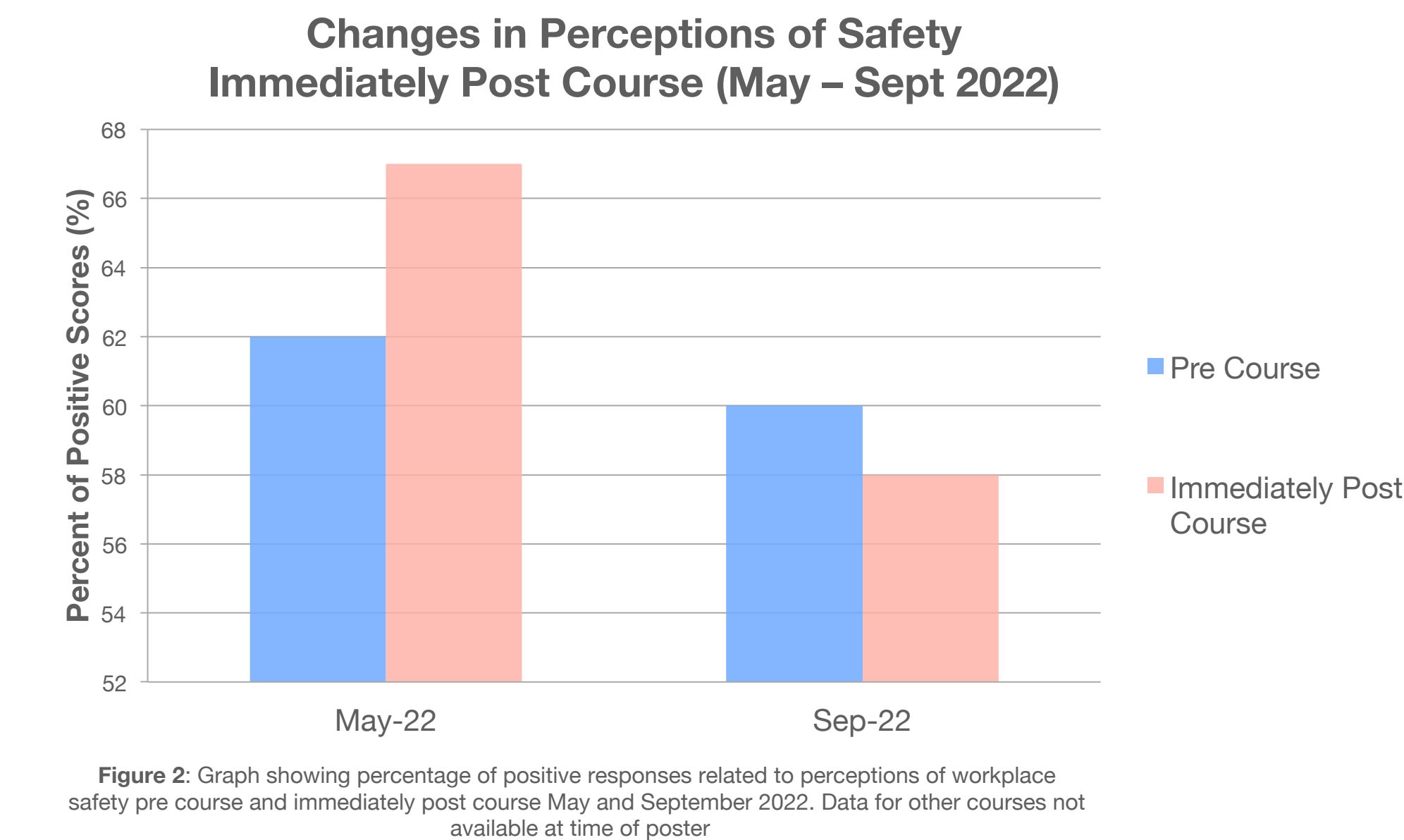


Figure 2: Graph showing percentage of positive responses related to perceptions of workplace safety pre course and immediately post course May and September 2022. Data for other courses not available at time of poster

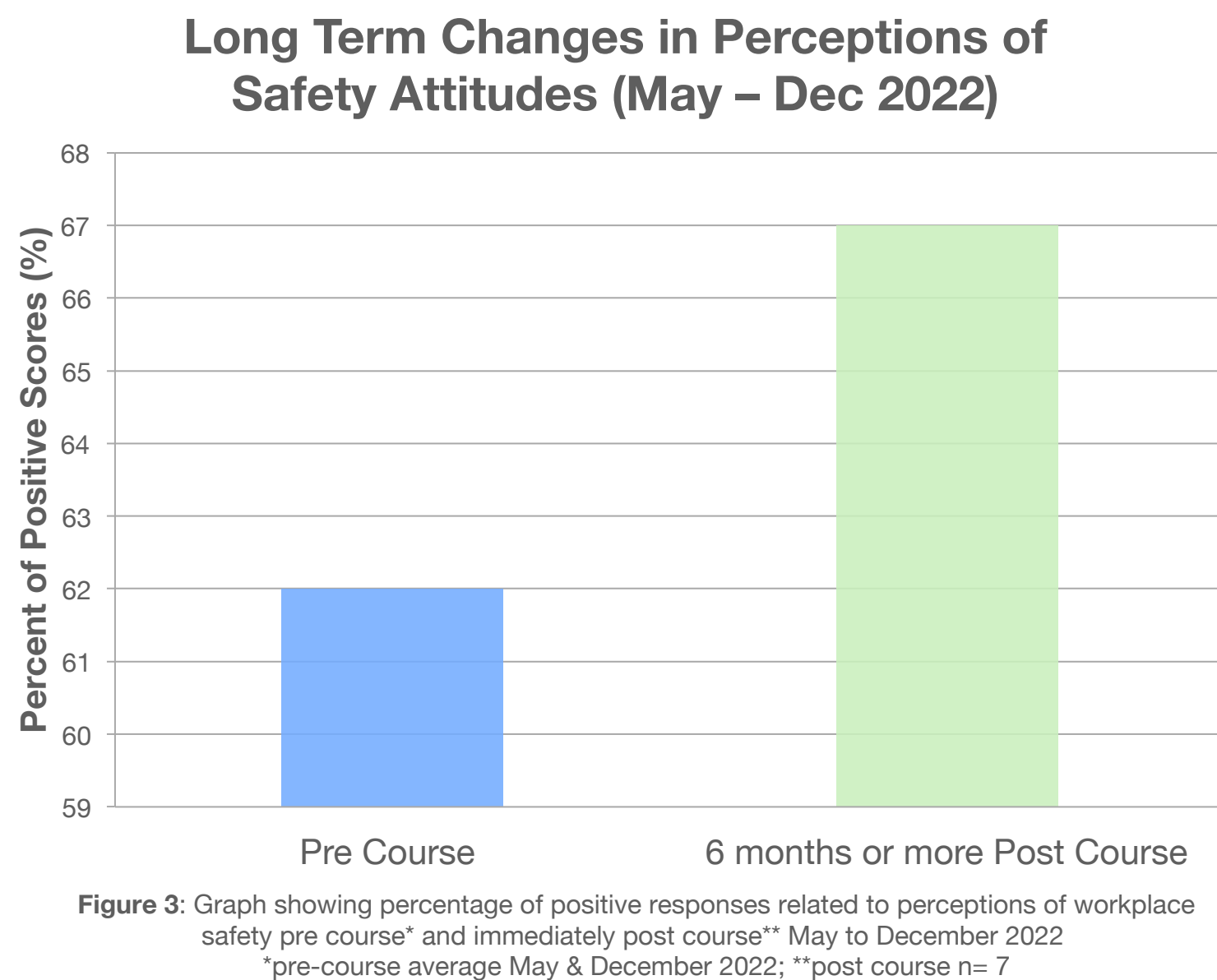


Figure 3: Graph showing percentage of positive responses related to perceptions of workplace safety pre course* and immediately post course** May to December 2022 *pre-course average May & December 2022; **post course n= 7

- Dynamically taking on feedback, theatre staff were invited to participate as a key delegate subgroup.
- The simulation scenarios were also replaced with a multidisciplinary team escape game with a simulated ‘real life scenario’.
- MDT training & involvement, the escape room and updates from the Ockenden report/NHS resolutions were the most popular elements of the course respectively (Table 1). The course was praised in providing an opportunity to share experiences and finding ways to improve communication.

Theme	No of Votes
MDT Training	15
Escape Room	9
Ockenden Update/NHS resolutions	8
Simulation & Discussion	7
ITU/HDU simulation	6
Improving Communication	5
Sharing Experiences	3
‘Civility Saves Lives’	2
Human Factors	2
CTG Training for Anaesthetists	2
Communication Video	2

Table 1: Key themes noted in positive feedback of POMPT course May-December 2022 (n=61; total number of positive comments)

CONCLUSIONS

- The POMPT course has been successful at our hospital; it is currently being rolled out across our Trust and is replicable in other maternity units.
- The improvement in safety attitudes is promising.
- It provides a safe platform to have open discussions, break down barriers, develop soft skills and enable a better understanding of each other’s roles.
- Delegates praised gamification of learning as an innovative and enjoyable learning method.