

The impact of our first year: Results of Focus Groups

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Background

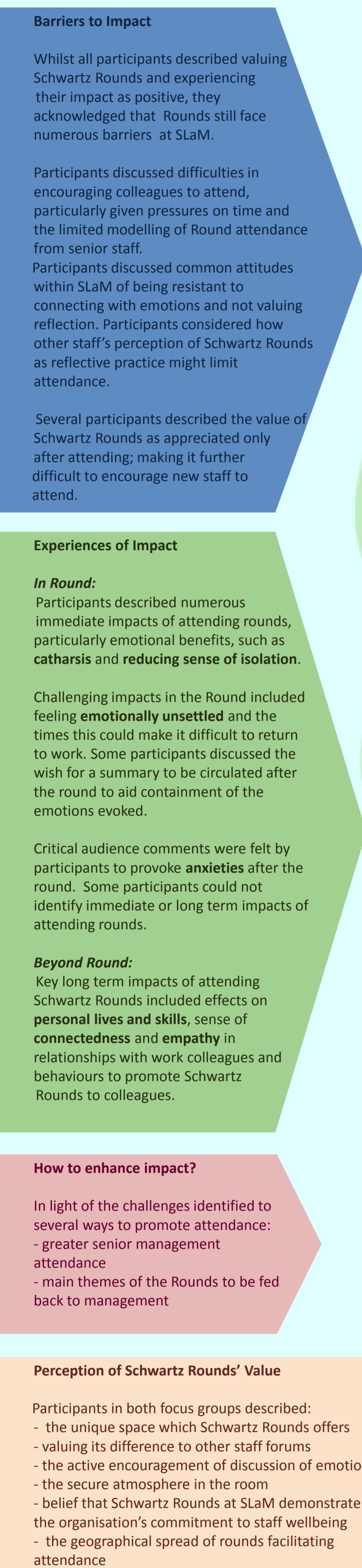
Schwartz Rounds began in South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) in September 2015. Rounds were run monthly, alternating between two main hospital sites.

In 12 months, **12 Rounds** were held reaching **450 staff**. There was average attendance per round of 38; almost **twice the national average** attendance for community and mental health trusts (n=19).

We sought qualitative feedback on key stakeholders' perceptions of Schwartz Rounds in SLaM. Here, we have presented a sample of themes related to the impact of Schwartz Rounds and staff perception of Rounds.

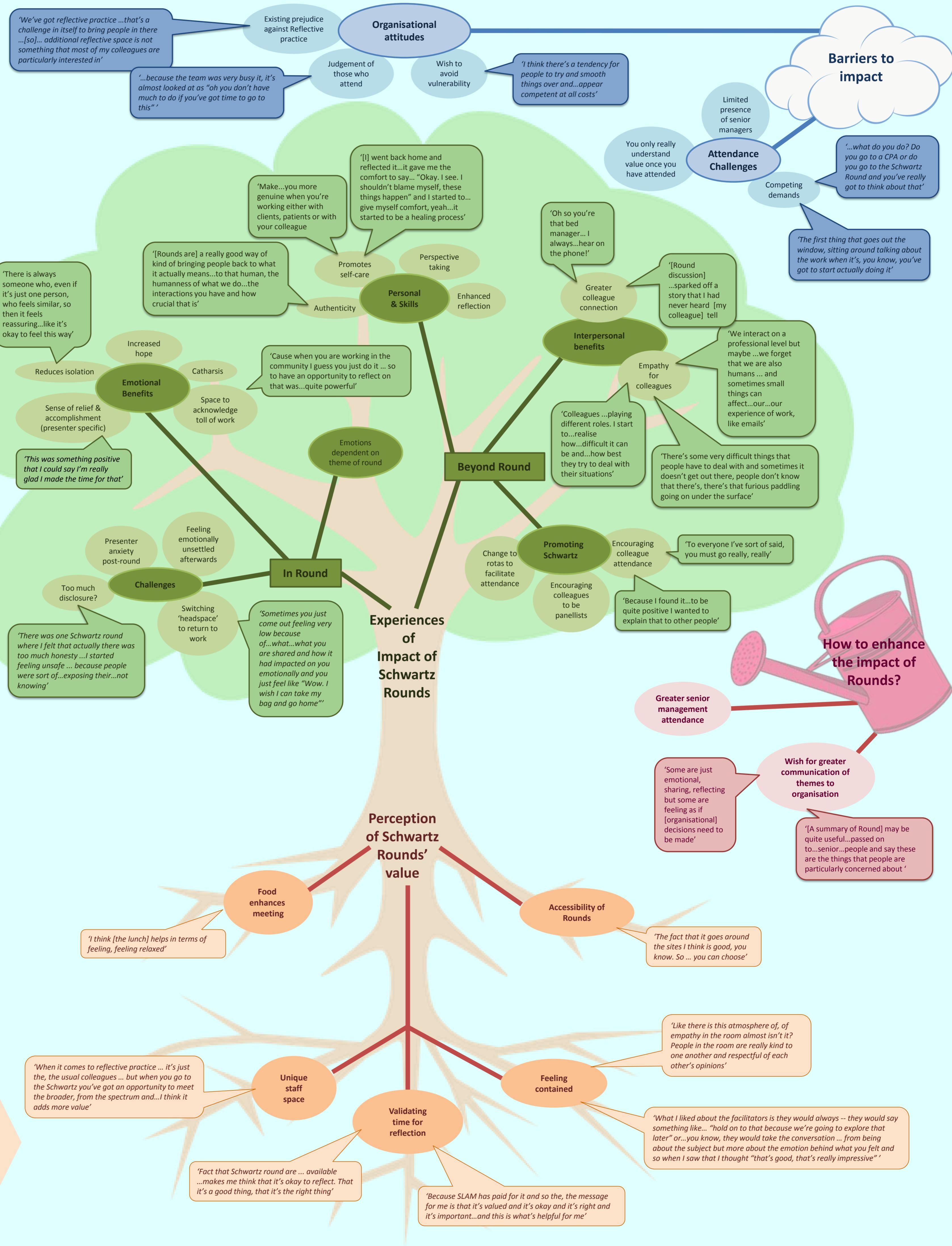
Results

Thematic map & summary



Methods

- Two focus groups were held: one for been panellists (N=3) and one for audience members (N=5)
- Participants were recruited via e-mail and consented to the qualitative evaluation
- The focus groups were semi-structured. The topic guide was devised on domains of activities: 'Before the Round', 'During the Round' and 'After the Round'
- Groups were audio-recorded and analysed using thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006)



Discussion

The focus groups identified multiple impacts of Schwartz Rounds, directly on individuals but also ripple effects on working practices, colleague connections and publicity. Participants described immediate impacts of Rounds including emotional benefits but also difficult feelings.

Participants provided insight to the wider perception of Schwartz in SLaM, including teams conflating Schwartz Rounds with Reflective Practice and negative attitudes towards attendance at Rounds.

Participants described attending a Round as the only way to truly understand its value. All participants in focus groups relayed passion for Schwartz Rounds and enjoyment of attending.

Actions

Promoting Rounds

- Development of Schwartz blog (relaying themes to wider trust and summarising emotional content of Rounds for attendees)
- Continuing to present Schwartz project to Trust Executives
- Recruiting Schwartz Champions to advocate for Schwartz across Trust

Increasing attendance

- 'Bring a buddy' scheme for senior management

Increasing Accessibility

- Expanding to 7 geographic locations and running 'pop-up' rounds

References

Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2006) Using thematic analysis in psychology. Qualitative Research in Psychology, 3 (2).