

The demands for robust and accessible teaching material have led to the introduction of an e-learning platform and courses at Västerbotten County Council.

The e-learning platform is an interesting tool for the distribution of courses, perhaps in particular for a sparsely populated area such as the county of Västerbotten, with several large and small healthcare units and one University Hospital.

The e-learning approach to teaching materials has enabled a much larger impact than conventional teaching, since it is often difficult to reach all eligible personnel, particularly in interventional and external healthcare departments and units. However, a sparsely populated area is not the only factor that would indicate that an e-learning platform is beneficial. A normally staffed department cannot easily complete the required courses in the form of lectures and practical exercises. An e-learning course can be studied when it suits an employee. A supervisor can help employees to find time to study. An e-learning course can be studied over time, repeated many times and can be used as a reference book. An important advantage is that the council does not need to find a replacement for the employee while he or she is studying. A supervisor can also follow which courses an employee is studying and follow their progress.

The e-learning teaching material at Västerbotten County Council has been developed in collaboration between subject experts, media educational specialists, graphic artists, film and photography professionals, as well as reference groups of various clinical specialities.

To develop an e-learning course is a costly process that must fund subject experts, educators and media producers. The County Council has built up its own production department in support of those who want to use e-learning to reach out with their knowledge and skills. The time it takes to develop a course is a good investment as a large number of employees can use the material at a very low cost.

A reference group looks through the applications received and prioritises the courses that primarily reach many employees and primarily are about patient safety.

The e-learning courses the County Council of Västerbotten has today cover areas such as medical technical equipment. New employees must learn how to use the equipment. Some procedures are carried out infrequently and e-learning helps employees maintain their skills in these areas. Some medical equipment is expensive and breaks easily if treated the wrong way, etc.

Other examples are that employees sometimes end up in situations with patients who are mentally ill and appear threatening or for other reasons may behave in a threatening way. Employees can study a course on how to be prepared for such situations.

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority requires that all employees who work with radiation must undergo training and maintain knowledge by doing tests every few years.

In our presentation, we will tell you about our work and the results after working with e-learning courses in a large organisation.