Overview

Global Health Partnerships Report

Lord Crisp’s Report on Global Health Partnerships highlights the need for The NHS to recognise the value of overseas training and experience for its staff and support for the scaling up of training and education for health workers in developing countries.

Its key findings were that we will not see sufficient progress in reducing child and maternal deaths and tackling HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria unless developing countries are able to take the lead, own the solutions and are supported by international, national and local partnerships.

The World Health Report 2006 estimates that there is a shortage of about 4.3 million health workers in developing countries.

In response, NESC and NHS South Central Strategic Health Authority has initiated and led a Cambodia Healthcare Partnership which is a joint agreement between the Maddox Jolie Pitt Foundation and NHS Education South Central Strategic Health Authority.

The aims are to support sustainable improvement in healthcare in Cambodia in addition to providing an unparalleled development experience for participants of the programme.

Mission and Vision

In developing an international leadership development strategy for SC, our mission is:

To add practical value to existing overseas development initiatives in partnership with local and international experts adopting a country led approach – basing our support on countries needs as identified and expressed by people from those countries.

Our vision is:

To support sustainable and measurable improvements in healthcare in the developing world, whilst providing a unique development experience for participants which broadens their education and enables them to bring new skills to their roles when they return to the UK.

Maddox Jolie Pitt (MJP) Foundation

The Maddox Jolie Pitt Foundation has been working in Cambodia since 2003 to aid economic growth in line with the UN Millennium Goals. The MJP Foundation programme in Samlaut Province has been accepted as the first Millennium Village outside Africa. In 2006, the local MJP Health Co-ordinator carried out an analysis of local demographics and disease prevalence and the medical needs of Samlaut and surrounding communities. In Cambodia, maternal mortality is 472/100,000 and under five child mortality is 85/1,000.
NESC and NHS South Central SHA International Development Programme

The programme meets a number of key aims of the leadership development strategy including:

- Cross cultural leadership and international experience
- Multi-agency partnerships and multi-professional development
- The continuing quest for unique and challenging development opportunities for our high potential leaders

Placements will typically be between 3-6 months and during their attachment, delegates will provide:

- training and education support for the Cambodian clinical staff, health workers and managers they are working alongside.
- a wide range of clinical skills
- a focus upon sustainable Service Improvement supervised by experts

A specific educational package has been designed which will identify new measurable skills and knowledge for application in Cambodia and upon return to the NHS.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the project, as agreed between all partners in the Cambodian Healthcare Partnership, are to achieve

- Sustainable improvement in Healthcare for Battambang and Samlaut:
- Higher standards of health care
- Improved access to healthcare
- Improved health outcomes

Progress

The first phase of the programme has been approved by the Strategic Health Authority.

Five delegates, two midwives and three GP’s/SpRs from the first cohort and will cover the first six months. The programme begins in August 2008. Also, in August, a senior team from the SHA High Potential Leaders programme will visit Battambang (the neighbouring city) to advise on the complementary improvement of paediatric hospital services.

A scoping project for further work with the Millennium Villages Project in Africa will begin in the autumn.

Summary

NHS South Central are about to embark on an exciting humanitarian programme in partnership with the Maddox Jolie Pitt Foundation in Cambodia. In addition and, at the invitation of the UN Millennium Villages Project, it is anticipated this will lead to other partnerships with countries in Africa – in the first instance in Tanzania. This supports the Department of Health policy for Global Partnerships. The intended benefits are sustainable improvements in health for the developing countries and personal and leadership growth for the delegates participating.

Peter Lees and Fleur Kitsell - October 2008