

SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA GWENT HEALTHCARE LINK

5-15PM, Tuesday 2nd March 2010

EDUCATION CENTRE, NEVILL HALL HOSPITAL

Agenda

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Next visit**
- 5. 10th year celebration**
- 6. Any other business**
- 7. Date of next meeting**

SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA GWENT HEALTHCARE LINK COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday 15th January 2010 5-15pm
Education centre, Nevill hall Hospital**

Minutes

1. Present.

Pam Powell (minutes), Peter Smith, Peter Sampson (Chair), Melrose East, Dave Williams, Biku Ghosh, Michelle Hall, Robyn Phillips, Brydon Williams, Iestyn Harrigan, Jane Cockerell, Henrietta Blackmore, Sandy Holt-Wilson.

Apologies:

Pegah Hafezi, Jill Curtis, Jane Hervé, Peter Dale.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising.

- **Finance.** We are still without a treasurer. An application was made to the director of finance for a replacement, but no volunteer came forward. In the short term Peter Sampson will cover this job until the post is filled.
- **Community link.** The community link held a Strategy Workshop in November 2009, but as yet there has been no feedback about the outcome. Biku was asked by Cantref School to give a talk to the pupils about Yirga Cheffe and the Link.
- **Fundraising.** The sale of the Calendars and Christmas cards was very successful. The calendars, especially, were very popular. In excess of £800 profit was made, which those present agreed was excellent. Robyn put forward a suggestion of using a website called easyfundraising.org to raise money when making purchases on the internet. Peter Sampson said he would collect information on this and email members with the details.
- **Customs.** The 5 digital blood pressure meters confiscated on the recent visit have now been released and given to the children's ward at Awassa Hospital. A reduced amount of duty has been paid for the printer (personal donation by Biku both for the printer and customs fee) and it is now in use at the Dilibatagel, Yirgacheffe school. New regulations on the amount of money that can be taken in and out of Ethiopia have changed and Henrietta said she would forward information on this to the members.
- **Health centres.** Robyn has written an excellent report outlining outcome of link support to the three exemplar health centres and comparison to three unsupported similar health centre. This is now available in the Link's website.
- **Motorbike ambulances.** The new motorbike ambulance at Shone has been very successful. It has been used 60 times to date. There was a problem with the electrical system but this was rectified by the motorbike trainer/driver of the Alaba ambulance. The Yirga Cheffe one is working well. There are some administrative problems at Wondo Genet and it has only been used for taking patients home from the health centre. Dr Aberra has been to a meeting with the vice chairman of the SNNPR region, who comes from Shone, and they are thrilled with the motorbike ambulance and would like more.
- **Microbiology laboratory.** The urine cultures are going well and they are now doing wound swab cultures as well.

- **CRISP course.** This course for the MSc Health officer students took place in November 2009 at the Hawassa as planned
- **Funding for Links with Africa.** To develop the benefits to employers of having staff involved in links with Africa. We were not successful with this bid.
- **United Nations Climate Change Conference.** Dr Daniel Dodo, the Director of Agricultural research Institute in SNNPR attended the meeting in Copenhagen in December 09 as representative from the SNNPR region with funding support from Wales Assembly.
- **Cardiff University students.** Biku gave a talk to students union on how to involve students in health links with Africa. There are 2 students from Cardiff University and 2 from Liverpool Medical School who want to do their electives in health centres in Ethiopia in 2010.
- **10th year of link.** A meeting was held between Peter Sampson, Brydon Williams and Peter Dale and the following points were agreed on-
 - It should be a celebration of what the link has achieved.
 - Informative and educational.
 - Realistic of people's time and energy.
 - Held over a 5 day period between May and the autumn (not school holidays or bank holidays). May or June would be preferable.
 - Use the hospital as a venue.
 - Hold an evening reception of 1 to 2 hours with nibbles and wine.
 - Invite key speakers.
 - Use hospital canteen here, and others in the Trust e.g. Caerphilly, to give lunchtime demonstrations, posters etc.
 - Produce a new up-to-date brochure.
 - Produce commemorative badges/pencils to give away.
 - Gain publicity through local papers and local radio.

Suggestions for speakers were Rhodri Morgan, Eldred Parry and the Chairman of the Trust. Sandy suggested inviting someone from the Ethiopian Embassy or one of our partners in Ethiopia. It was agreed we should invite Assembly members and Members of Parliament. In total 48 people have visited Ethiopia with the link and these should be invited also.

eRanger are willing to provide us with a motorbike ambulance for a few days, so as we can use it for demonstration and with the fundraising as suggested at the last meeting.

Volunteers will be needed and tasks identified.

Biku and Vishnu will produce the leaflets and posters.

4. Charity status/ Fund transfer.

The new current account is now open. To date only £7,000 has been transferred, which is the amount of money which was given to us from the old Trust Board's Charitable Trust Fund. There is still about £5,000 left in the old trust account. This is due to some money that needs to be transferred to Ethiopia for the forthcoming visit, after which the rest can be transferred to the new account. The money collected by payroll giving can now be paid monthly into the new account. There is still the outstanding problem with the gift aid, but when this is rectified we can sever the financial links with the trust account and become financially independent.

5. Next visit. A short visit of 8 days is planned, departing on 19th March. This will consist of-

- Giving support to the MSc program for health officers with A 3 day Basic surgical skills course (BSS) will be provided by 2 general surgeons, 1 surgical registrar and 1 orthopaedic surgeon and Mr Yogesh, Orthopaedic surgeon from Nevill hall. This course will be sponsored by the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and Ethicon.
- There will also be a 2 day course in Trauma and fracture management and.
- The team will also teach junior doctors, medical students and health officers.

- A 3 day theatre nurses skills course will be run by a retired theatre nurse who has extensive experience of working in developing countries will run this course which will involve theatre, surgical, maternity nurses. Ethicon will also sponsor this course.
- Melrose with Brydon and one other midwife will train community health extension worker in the Gedeo zone based at Dilla. This 3 day programme will focus on safe, clean delivery at home, new born care and also training in the administration of Misoprostol. This drug is an effective way of managing post partum haemorrhage. Most deliveries take place in the home, so it is the health extension workers who will use this. Biku is investigating why there is a difficulty in getting Misoprostol in Ethiopia. There will be approximately 100 health extension workers and their supervisors, and these will be divided into 3 groups of 30-35 each day. 2 or 3 translators will be needed and it is hoped Metasabia will be available. There are 50 health extension posts and they will each be given a bicycle. Out of a total of 144 health posts in the Gedeo zone (population just below 1 million) we have to date trained HEWS attached to and given bicycles to 32. After this visit we will have trained and given bicycles to a total 82 health posts and it is hoped to support 58 when we visit again at the end the year.
-
- Biku and Robyn will inspect and continue to evaluate and monitor the 4 health centres of Yirga Cheffe, Wondo Genet, Alaba and Shone.
-
- Robyn will also work with the Head of the Regional Health Bureau, Ato Kare, to help the Zonal and Regional Health Departments in strategic planning so that they can achieve the support that is available from outside.
- The health centre team have 3-monthly meetings, in different locations, with 2 representatives from each health centre and Dr Aberra attending. The next will take place in the regional health office, with the regional health department people, on 30th January. They will give a report from each health centre on how the bicycles that were donated are being used, and whether they are proving successful. Dr Aberra will ask them whether they have any other needs that we can provide help with.

6. Any other business.

Melrose has been invited to join the curriculum planning group at the University of Glamorgan.

Liz Stevens has written an account of her experiences and it has been published in the Midwifery Magazine

Wales for Africa Health Links. They have asked all links to submit a report on their contribution to the Millennium Development goals and demonstrate what they have achieved with a small amount of money. Our link will write a report.

St. Johns Ambulance has said they would be willing to teach basic first aid training, to include management of road traffic accidents, for the link in Ethiopia.

International Development Summit, Wales for Africa Links. This is to showcase the last 4 years of activity and will be held in Cardiff on 8th March.

International Midwifery Conference. This will be held in South Africa at the end of April/early May. Melrose and Robyn will put forward a paper for consideration and will involve our Ethiopian partners.

Sandy was informed that the first eye operation using his donated equipment was performed in Yirga cheffe and a photograph of this was taken to give to him.

7. Date of next meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2nd in the Education Centre, Nevill Hall Hospital at 5:15 pm.