

Ghana 2012

In partnership with the Medical and Surgical Skills Institute (MSSI) of Ghana, Kate Woodhead and Debbie Lee from Friends of African Nursing delivered a Leadership programme for 29 Ward Managers from Ghana. The MSSI provided the venue, the office support in Ghana and also the organisation with the hospitals to enable Nurses to attend and financially supported the entire visit. This made an enormous difference to FoAN, allowing us to concentrate on delivering the education without having to worry about any of the usual logistics. We are most grateful to MSSI for their assistance and support.

The Leadership programme is a comprehensive week of education focussed on encouraging personal growth and professional development. For this course we have set the delegates a challenge and will return to Ghana at the beginning of 2013 to bring the delegates together again to hear what they have accomplished. They were very excited (although a little daunted) by the prospect of the project and have already decided on their topics. Many will tackle projects related to specific areas in their workplace which cause issues for Nursing, others are clinically focussed reviewing and wishing to improve quality in the management of patients with pressure ulcers, for example.

The students came from hospitals far and wide in Ghana with several having to travel for two days to get to the capital in the far south. However, a majority were from the Teaching Hospital, Korle Bu in Accra; where MSSI is situated. Networking amongst the delegates, most of whom did not know each other was a strong aspect of the week and obviously appreciated very much by the delegates. Several from disparate parts of the country are working together on their projects and intend to visit each others' hospitals in future.



We were very fortunate to enjoy the kind donation of Team Management Profiles, once again from TMSDI and each student went away with a personal profile enabling them many insights into their work preferences. Comments on the evaluation forms relate to this new awareness such as :-

“I enjoyed the Team Management profile. Honestly, it did come out with what my capabilities are and other areas where I am expected to do more.”

“ My team management profile has enlightened me on my strengths and weaknesses and the way forward.”

“The bit about the management profile, now I know who I am and what I have to do.”



The course evaluated very well with other comments in response to the question what have you enjoyed?

It was very interactive and every participant was engaged actively.

I have acquired knowledge in leadership skills and motivation. This will enable me to work more cordially with my colleagues and my subordinates.

I have better understanding to do my work better, lead better, better confidence and be a better role model wherever I go.

The workshop has really helped to develop and sharpen my leadership skills in planning, developing projects and really helped to find a solution to them.....coming back to present them will help us achieve what we want to.

I enjoyed your teachings so much, and I now have full understanding of leadership skills and ability to plan efficiently to deliver health services to my clients, very well.

The whole workshop was very interesting and educative. I enjoyed the leadership development and knowing myself. Also how to be an effective leader and to motivate staff to meet specific goals.

And to the question, What will you do differently as a result of this course?

I am well motivated and informed so my communication skills having been sharpened will enable me to perform well in my team.

I am going to be an agent of change in my area of work by being very innovative.

I have decided to spend a little more time to plan for better results. Communication must be ongoing and part of all of us in the unit. To be a better leader, to influence my staff so that they have more confidence than before, so that we work for a quality care, as a good team.

Implement all the knowledge I have acquired here and effect a change in my unit.

To put into practice what I have learned , to make a lot of changes in my facility as a leader.

I will ensure that the new leadership skills I have come to learn, I will ensure that documents and practices, patient safety and effective communication are now adhered to so that quality of care is achieved.

....I am going to work on more projects to help make my health facility a better one.

Motivates me to come out with an infection prevention team to help identify and meet the lapses in infection prevention practices.



Kate Woodhead

May 2012