

Visit to Ghana – January 2014

A leadership programme was delivered to 27 senior nurses, in partnership with the Medical and Surgical Skills Institute on Korle Bu Hospital campus, Accra, Ghana at the end of January 2013. Debbie Lee Sundberg – a previous trustee of Friends of African Nursing, who now heads up a new charity called Cornfields, delivered the programme with Kate Woodhead from FoAN. Additional input was kindly given by Sue Barnes, a nurse educator from Cornfields. We were all in Accra not only to deliver nursing education but also to continue to work on some street kids projects, the focus of Cornfields charitable work.

The main outcomes from the programme are intended to give delegates the confidence and self awareness to develop their own style of leadership, in a challenging resource scarce healthcare system. Participants came from hospitals all around Ghana and we were particularly pleased that several delegates were able to travel from the far north of the country, where resources and personnel are in particularly short supply.



Sessions therefore focus on developing skills and knowledge in communications, power and politics, planning, motivation, managing conflict and quality improvement. In addition, a profile of the individual is undertaken for each delegate, which are kindly donated by TMSDI and continue to amaze and delight the participants, who have rarely been previously profiled. The tool is excellent at raising self awareness and giving positive messages, so that individuals can better understand themselves and their team members.

The team of staff at MSSSI are extremely supportive and assist us with administration, copying and support of all kinds during the week and we are extremely grateful to them. Planning ahead for next year, MSSSI are keen that we deliver the leadership course based in Kumasi, which would allow more delegates from northern areas to attend. In addition further perioperative programmes have been suggested, which FoAN could deliver both in Kumasi and in Accra.



The programme delivered in Accra in 2014, has evaluated very well and in answer to the question what will you do differently as a result of this course, some delegate feedback follows:-

Now I know myself better and can easily identify others, this will go a long way to improve my interaction with others.

I normally shout when somebody does wrong but now because of the communication skills that I have acquired, I am going to be a good communicator and leader.

Encourage nurses to read, to widen their horizons.

Plan before implementation of activities to attain effectiveness.

I will try to resolve conflicts among staff with the knowledge acquired from this course.

I will share my knowledge on stress management with the whole staff including the doctors.

I will be able to work with my team more efficiently

Motivate others for good work done

The team management profile has been an eye opener. It has made me self aware and aware of my team abilities.

Thanks to all those in MSSl who gave their administrative support and allowed it to run smoothly and also to Debbie and Sue for their enthusiasm and energy in helping to deliver the programme.

Kate Woodhead

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