



SMP HEALTH LINKS FORUM

10TH NOVEMBER, EDINBURGH CITY CHAMBERS

Attendees:

Name	Organisation	Email
Sam Abrahams	First Aid Africa	samabrahams@firstafrica.com
Alastair Ager	Queen Margaret University	aager@qmu.ac.uk
Charlie Bevan	Scotland Malawi Partnership	charlie@scotland-malawipartnership.org
Keith Bohannon	Scotland Malawi Partnership	keith@scotland-malawipartnership.org
Ewan Brown	NHS Lothian	Ewan.Brown@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk
Christine Campbell	The University of Edinburgh	Christine.Campbell@ed.ac.uk
Carol Carson	VSO volunteer	carolcarsonbrady@gmail.com
Mhairi Collie	NHS Lothian	mhscollie@hotmail.com
David Crossman	St Andrews University	sd4@st-andrews.ac.uk
Heather Cubie	The University of Edinburgh	Heather.Cubie@ed.ac.uk
Jackie Farr	Scotland Malawi Partnership	Jackie@scotland-malawipartnership.org
Ian Gibson	SMP Member	iwgibs57@googlemail.com
Stephen Gillespie	St Andrews University	shg3@st-andrews.ac.uk
Gwen Gordon	NHS Tayside	gwengordon@nhs.net
Dermot Gorman	NHS Lothian	dermot.gorman@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk
Liz Grant	University of Edinburgh	Liz.Grant@ed.ac.uk
David Hope-Jones	Scotland Malawi Partnership	david@scotland-malawipartnership.org
Nigel Harper	LUV +	nigel.h@blueyonder.co.uk
Blessings Kachale	Queen Margaret University	bkachale@yahoo.com
Alex Keay	Mary's Meals	alex.keay@marysmeals.org
Barry Klaassen	NHS Tayside	barry.klaassen@nhs.net
Dr Elizabeth MacDonald	Royal College Physicians Edinburgh	Elizabeth.MacDonald@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk
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Gordon Macpherson	Mother and Child Rights	gordon.macpherson7@yahoo.com
Magnus Maharg	Scottish Government	Magnus.Maharg@gov.scot
Mary Millar	Meningitis Research	marymillar@scotland-meningitis.org.uk
Jane Salmonson	CBM UK	janes@cbmuk.org.uk
Jack Simpson	University of the West of Scotland	jack.Simpson@uws.ac.uk
Paula Smith	University of Edinburgh	paula.smith@ed.ac.uk
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Jeanette Stevenson	Royal College Physicians Edinburgh	j.stevenson@rcpe.ac.uk
Kate Sutherland	SMP Member	kate.suth@btinternet.com
Victoria Taylor	THET	victoria@thet.org
Tony Wales	University of the West of Scotland	anthony.wales@uws.ac.uk
James Wells	EMMS International	James.Wells@emms.org
Pamela Woodburn	VSO Scotland	Pamela.Woodburn@vsoint.org

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Keryn Banks	Christian Aid
Geoff Earl	SMP Member
Noreen Kent	NHS Lanarkshire
Tracy Humphrey	Napier University
Jacqui Bell	University of Aberdeen
Rebecca Wallace	Robert Gordon University
Pam Smith	University of Edinburgh
David Dewhurst	University of Edinburgh
Neil Merrylees	University of Dundee
Mike McKirdy	Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Glasgow

ITEM ONE: SCOTLAND MALAWI PARTNERSHIP 10 YEAR OF HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Charlie Bevan from the SMP launched the “Scotland Malawi Partnership 10 year of Health Partnerships” report. [Click here](#) to download the report.

The report offers some background and brief analysis over health trends over the past 10 years, showing a strong overlap between what Government of Malawi set out as priorities in 2005 and what has been delivered, e.g.

- Maternal health
- Capacity of health colleges (particularly with CoM and KCN)
- HIV/AIDs work- particularly in the first 5 years
- Support for community health

The report also gives voice to some of those who have been participants and beneficiaries in a number of the projects and begins to look forward to the next 10 years, recognising the opportunities of the changing international landscape (SDGs) and at national level with the review of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy for the third revision in 2016.

ITEM TWO: THE UN’S GLOBAL GOALS- GOAL 3 “GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING”

Dr Liz Grant, Director of the University of Edinburgh’s Global Health Academy offered an overview of the Sustainable Development Goals framework with a particular focus on Goal 3 “Good health and well-being.”

[Click here](#) to download her presentation.

ITEM THREE: HEALTH VOLUNTEERING OVERSEAS

David Hope-Jones updated the forum on the recent NHS Scotland Global Health Collaboration meeting, which has been convened to advance Scotland’s efforts in supporting global health links. The meeting was chaired by Dr Duncan McCormick, Senior Medical Officer of Health Protection Scotland. The SMP have been invited to sit on the core group to take forward the actions discussed at the first meeting, including a mapping exercise of current international health links across NHS boards. This will provide an opportunity for the views of SMP members to be fed into the Scottish Government’s strategic plan in this area.

Viki Taylor from THET also gave an overview of their work in this area and their ambition to offer further support to NHS Scotland staff, and will also be active on the Global Health Collaboration Core Group. For further details on the support offered by THET visit <http://www.thet.org>.

Following David and Viki's input, discussion from the group focussed on the following priorities:

- Importance of being demand-led in any partnership links;
- Upholding good practice in international volunteering;
- Value of addressing blockers to such volunteering;
- Value of also considering associated non-clinical areas: hospital management, logistical assistance, capacity building, resilience, etc

For further information and to feed into this area of work please email David at david@scotland-malawipartnership.org

ITEM FOUR: PROJECT GOVERNANCE FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Keith Bohannon from the Scotland Malawi Partnership shared a short paper on financial management support. Following feedback from members and partners in Scotland and Malawi the SMP were asked to find out a bit more information about support on offer to develop financial management capacity in Scotland-Malawi links. In response to this we have been in touch with a number of organisations, UK-based and Malawian, to find out what services are on offer. The short factsheet gives a brief overview of these options, more information can be found on the respective websites. This list is not exhaustive but does give a flavour for the options available. All of the organisations below have been used and recommended by SMP members/partners, based on their experience of working directly with them.

[Click here](#) to download the document.

ITEM FIVE: AOB

Ethical clearance for research in Malawi

A number of members have contacted the SMP for advice on ethical clearance boards in Malawi, in relation to either the College of Medicine Research Ethics Committee (COMREC) or National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST). Feedback has shown that fees have increased, there are long waiting times and organisations are struggling to get clear information on whether SG-funded projects are exempt from this charge.

Charges typically are:

- \$100-150 submission fees
- 10% of specific research undertaken- shouldn't be the full project budget

Charlie invited members to share their experience with her, and Magnus Maharg from the Scottish Government offered to follow up on this too. Please contact Charlie at charlie@scotland-malawipartnership.org to share your experience.

Visas for visiting Malawi

A number of members have now travelled to Malawi under the new visa regime for UK citizens. The simplest options seems to be paying for your visa on arrival into Lilongwe/Blantyre, paying in cash with 75USD for the single entry visa. If you download the visa application form in advance from the Malawi High

Commission website ([click here](#)) and fill in before travel this can speed up the process in the airport on arrival. For further information visit the SMP website or contact Charlie at charlie@scotland-malawipartnership.org.

Carol Carson, VSO video

[Click here to download](#) a Video from Carol Carson relating to VSO's work in Malawi.

SMP staff changes

Charlie will be on maternity leave from January to October 2015, in her absence Keith Bohannon and David Hope-Jones will be the main contacts for the health forum.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the SMP Health Forum will likely be in Spring 2016. Further information to follow.