

Funded Volunteer Role: Physiotherapy Coordinator King's Sierra Leone Partnership

Terms of Reference

Start Date: June 2017

Placement Duration: 12 months

Location: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Reporting to: Clinical Manager

The Function

The King's Sierra Leone partnership (KSLP) is a long-term capacity building partnership between King's Health Partners in London and key partner institutions in Freetown, Sierra Leone. KSLP aims to help strengthen Sierra Leone's health system by improving training, clinical services, policy and research. Key partners include the College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), Connaught Government Hospital, and the Ministry of Health & Sanitation (MOHS).

The **Connaught Hospital Physiotherapy Service** is made up of a team of two qualified physiotherapists, nine qualified State Enrolled Community Health Nurses (SECHN) including two volunteers, six nursing aids with no formal health training, and a volunteer porter. The department treats on average 30 inpatients and outpatients a day and receives a mixed complex caseload, with a predominance of stroke patients. The low skilled staffing level makes meeting the rehabilitation needs of a demanding caseload challenging. Clinical areas where standards of practice could be raised through partnership have been identified and prioritised as: functional stroke rehabilitation; acute and early stage amputee rehabilitation; manual handling techniques; 24/hour postural management, including pressure sore management and wheelchair positioning; and basic documentation.

The **Sierra Leone National Clubfoot Programme** works in partnership with local government, other Non Governmental Organisations, and trained medical professionals in Sierra Leone to assure that children are given treatment for clubfoot. The programme strives to build capacity within the local healthcare system to effectively treat children with clubfoot so that they can enjoy a life of greater mobility and social acceptance. The programme is based at the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) in Sierra Leone.

The Role

KSLP is looking to recruit a Volunteer Physiotherapy Coordinator for its in-country team from June 2017. This person will be based in Freetown and would split time between the Connaught Hospital Physiotherapy Service and the Sierra Leone National Clubfoot Programme.

Duties at the **Connaught Hospital Physiotherapy Service** will include working in partnership with the Physiotherapy Department Manager to:

- Build capacity and improve service delivery in priority areas
- Formalise physiotherapy assistant training
- Develop continuous professional development programmes within Connaught Hospital
- Mentor existing staff in both clinical intervention and managerial processes
- Support and develop wheelchair and equipment processes, and liaise with relevant partners and stakeholders
- Work with partners to support the development of an in country physiotherapy training qualification
- Collaborate to set SMART goals for the physiotherapy partnership, and regularly report and update for the duration of post

Responsibilities associated with the **Sierra Leone National Clubfoot Programme** include working in partnership with the SLCP to support Mobility Outreach International to:

- Monitor and evaluate clubfoot clinics to ensure adequate data collection, peer evaluation and standards of practice are in place
- Organise ongoing training programmes in the Ponseti method
- Keep up to date on research and practices in Ponseti
- Assist the counselling team with their work on raising awareness, collecting patient stories and developing facilitation guides for parental support groups, which will include travel to other sites
- Support the NRC team to work with partners to raise awareness of clubfoot
- Advocate for the Ponseti method to be included on medical, nursing and physiotherapy curricula

Person Specification

Qualifications:

- It is essential that the candidate have a recognised physiotherapy degree
- It is desirable if the candidate is member of relevant clinical interest group, e.g. paediatrics; and has a recognised post graduate education in specialist clinical area or global health

Experience:

- It is necessary for the candidate to have extensive post graduate experience in a wide variety of clinical settings, including musculoskeletal, respiratory, neurology and paediatrics; experience in a senior role including managerial and supervisory duties; teaching experience; and travel in a low income setting
- It is desirable for the candidate to have clinical experience with Ponseti; work experience in Africa or low income setting; research skills; team lead experience; and programme management experience in a low income setting

Personal Characteristics:

- It is essential that the candidate have excellent interpersonal and intercultural skills; have confidence working with senior colleagues; be highly skilled in the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with clients, carers and families who may have a range of physical disabilities or barriers to understanding; be skilled at multitasking and prioritising; be able to work independently with minimal supervision; have the ability to work flexibly within a sometimes unpredictable environment

Support Provided to Volunteers

The post holder will be provided with: return flights to and from initial post, plus one paid leave flight to and from Freetown for every six months in post; £500 monthly stipend for living expenses, paid in local currency; multi-entry visa, residency permit & professional registration; vaccinations & antimalarials; insurance; accommodation in a shared KSLP house

To Apply: Submit a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) and CV (maximum 4 pages) to volunteer@kslp.org.uk. Please include the role title in the subject line of the email. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.