

## Clinical Nurse: Covid-19 Response - King's Sierra Leone Partnership

### Terms of Reference

Start Date: Rolling applications to start as soon as possible (see 'Practicalities' below)

Placement Duration: 6 months

Planned start: August 2020

Location: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Reporting to: KSLP Clinical Lead

### King's Sierra Leone Partnership

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 Sierra Leone. KSLP aims to help strengthen Sierra Leone's health system by improving training, clinical services, policy and research. Key partners include the Connaught Hospital and the College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS) in the University of Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS).

**Are you a highly motivated, hard-working nurse with an emergency or critical care background who has previous experience of working in low resource settings? If so, we want to hear from you!**

### Covid-19 in Sierra Leone: Our response

The Covid-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on Sierra Leone. At the time of writing there is widespread community transmission and a case fatality rate of around 4.2%. Many patients are presenting late with Covid-19 due to fear, stigma and lack of understanding about services. Other routine health services are being disrupted or closed; hospital facilities are seeing up to a 60% drop in inpatient bed occupancy.

The Government of Sierra Leone has established treatment centres and isolation centres nationwide. Connaught Hospital – where this role is based – has a 10 bedded infectious disease unit. The hospital's role is to identify and isolate patients with suspected Covid-19 and transfer confirmed cases to a treatment centre.

As the main adult tertiary referral hospital, Connaught Hospital located in the bustling capital city provides inpatient and outpatient services for an average of 386 patients per week prior to Covid-19.

This busy and resource constrained environment relies on nurses who make up the majority of the workforce, to deliver safe and adequate care to a wide range of patients.

KSLP is working at Connaught Hospital to support the Covid-19 response, through:

- Training clinicians on identification, management and isolation of patients
- Supporting safe screening and triage processes
- Clinical and nursing care for patients in the infectious disease unit
- Supporting hospital management to ensure that normal health services are running and utilised
- Supporting clear messaging to patients and staff on Covid-19

**The initial focus of this role is to strengthen nursing systems by empowering nurses with the knowledge and skills they need to provide the best patient care during the Covid-19 response. When the pressure of Covid-19 has eased the role will transition to supporting the nurse training coordinator in the planning and delivery of already established essential CPD nursing courses (SLEWS, RATES, SHARED etc). As well as supporting clinical nursing care delivery through mentorship in emergency care areas.**

These activities will be achieved by drawing on KSLP's strong partnerships with the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Team at the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Matron's office within Connaught Hospital. The project is driven by a truly collaborative approach, which is practical and flexible.

## Join our team: The Role

KSLP is looking to recruit a Clinical Nurse Volunteer for its in-country team as soon as possible. This person will be based at Connaught Hospital in Freetown and will have a critical role in:

- On-the-job clinical mentorship and skills development for nurses caring for patients with Covid-19
- Support to nursing care delivery in the infectious disease unit or screening/triage/emergency care areas (approximately 2/3 days per week)
- Support to the nurse training coordinator on the planning and delivery of the following essential CPD Nursing courses: RATES, SLEWS, SHARED
- Supporting the Matron's Office to ensure that other services are planned, available to patients and utilised; supporting nurses to feel confident in continuing non-Covid-19 healthcare delivery
- Close collaboration with the Matron's Office to plan, coordinate and achieve all of the above.

## Person Specification

- **Qualifications:**

**Essential** - An adult nursing qualification & professional registration in home country.

**Desirable** - A postgraduate qualification in education or mentorship would be advantageous.

- **Experience:**

**Essential** - A minimum of 4 years clinical work experience in either a critical care or emergency care area(s). Previous experience (minimum 1 year) working and/or teaching within a hospital in a low resource setting. Experience of mentoring and training others. Good knowledge of infection prevention measures and/or working time spent in an infectious disease's speciality.

**Desirable** - Experience of implementing a quality improvement project in a low resource setting.

- **Personal Characteristics:** Hardworking, enthusiastic, creative and solution focused. Possesses excellent interpersonal skills, feels confident working within a multicultural team. Skilled at multitasking, prioritising and working independently with minimal supervision. Believes in the value of partnership working and is sensitive to the challenging nature of health care delivery in a resource scarce environment.

## Support Provided to Volunteers

This is an unpaid voluntary position, but the post holder will be provided with:

- Pre-departure and in-country induction
- Return flights to and from initial post, plus one paid return flight from Freetown for annual leave per 6 months worked
- £500 monthly stipend for living expenses, paid in Leones
- Multi-entry visa, residency permit and professional registration
- Vaccinations and antimalarials
- Indemnity and Travel Insurance
- Accommodation in a shared KSLP house
- Structured work plan & line management support

## Practicalities

Lungi Airport in Freetown is due to open on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and we are keen to have people travel soon after this date. Due to the changing nature of logistics during the Covid-19 pandemic we are continually monitoring the situation and will review with the post holder. We are happy to discuss this further and other practicalities at interview.

**To Apply:** Submit a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) and CV (maximum 4 pages) to [kghp@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:kghp@kcl.ac.uk). Please include the role title in the subject line of the email. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, so we encourage early applications.