

N2N Health Partnership

(North of UK to North of Pakistan Partnership)



Pakistan Visit: 21 – 27th February 2015



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Version: 3.0

Date: 8th March 2015

N2N Health Partnership - Preamble

The North to North Health Partnership (N2N) aims to preserve and protect the good health of people in the North of UK and the Northern Provinces of Pakistan through the development of a strategic health link between the two countries.

The link was established following the devastating earthquake that hit this part of Pakistan in October 2005. We are supported by the NHS and many national professional and health related organisation in the UK and have developed close working relationships with similar organisations in Pakistan, over the years.

The Partnership was granted charitable status in April 2008 (charity number 112 3805).

N2N Health Partnership: Pakistan Visit : 21nd – 27th February 2015

Visit Team

- Professor Paul Johnstone
Regional Director of Public Health (North of England), Public Health England & Co-chair N2N Health Partnership
- Professor Mahmood Adil
Medical Director (Public Health & Intelligence) NHS National Services Scotland & Co-chair N2N Health Partnership
- Mr Abdul Razzaq
Director of Public Health in the Greater Manchester area in an unofficial, private capacity

Background

This is a private professional visit by three senior public health and medical professionals on behalf of North2North Health Partnership - a charity established in 2007 to support exchanges and links between health services in Pakistan and United Kingdom. The overall purpose of this visit was to foster further links and build on the successes achieved in all three domains of public health (health care, protection and promotion) by the charity, in the recent past.

Meetings and visits were conducted over 5 days in February 2015 with three specific objectives:

Visit Objectives

- To understand and explore ways to strengthening current healthcare quality, management and public health (including health protection) in the Pakistan health system
- To explore the primary and secondary care interface in the governmental, private and NGO sectors.
- To identify opportunities for collaboration with PHE and NHS Scotland with health agencies in Pakistan.

On this last objective, our intention is to share our findings with as many interested colleagues across the UK and Pakistan to support their own ideas and plans in developing links between the two countries.

We have summarised our findings below covering three headings; (i) who we visited, (ii) the context of the organisation and why we visited them and (iii) areas of need and potential for collaboration. Further background information is available via the web contacts given below.

Day 1: 22nd February 2015 – Islamabad

1. **Dr Mohammed Salman. Lead Consultant Microbiologist, National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad**

Context of that organisation

This is the national PH delivery organisation run by Federal Govt of Pakistan. It focuses on PH labs, Field Epidemiology, immunisation production, surveillance and medicines quality control.

Areas of need for collaboration

Systems management support in post devolution (18th amendment to constitution devolving health to provinces).

Support on developing surveillance and AMR management.

2. **Hashoo Foundation. Dr Zahoor Uddin – Manager Health**

Context of that organisation

This is a large NGO with focus on education, economic development and health. Hashoo Foundation has 7 regional offices in Pakistan and international chapters in the UK, Canada and Dubai. Funding from large family business entity, UK and US and self-generating (for more details <http://www.hashoofoundation.org>)

Areas of need for collaboration

This visit focused on HF ambition to re vitalise primary health care through Basic Health Units (BHUs) following their detailed field assessment of the current state of BHUs and proposals for a revitalisation programme. Their objectives are to offer prevention services (nutrition, child and maternal health, elderly health) to the catchment population of their pilot area 400,000.

3. **Dr Sania Nishtar. Heart File CEO. <http://www.heartfile.org/> (Also WHO Adviser and previously Minister of Health, Federal Govt of Pakistan)**

Context of that organisation

Heartfile is an NGO for policy and advocacy working on innovative approaches to financing health services. Their approach involves establishing a 'funding model' as an alternative to the traditional public tax funded and private models. This is for patients requiring high cost 'catastrophic' disease management with up front high cost care.

Areas of need for collaboration

This was a very helpful meeting to explore the role of N2N in PH in Pakistan with the wide policy perspective working with Government, professional bodies and NGOs. We would like to follow this up when she visits UK in summer 2015.



Day 2: 23rd February 2015 – Mianwali. Namal College (244km from Islamabad)

4. Namal College. Ms Alison Darnborough, Director operations and Mr Abid Hussain Director of Marketing, Namal College and Imran Khan Foundation (IKF)

Context of that organisation

This is a visionary institute, conceived by Imran Khan and in partnership with the University of Bradford. It is located in by a beautiful lake (Lake Namal) beside mountain scenery and was opened in 2010. Its initial focus is on tertiary education supporting rural areas and they are now expanding into business management and entrepreneurship (agriculture), engineering and health development.

Areas of need for collaboration

Namal College are very keen to get advice to establish a healthcare facility on their premises to meet the health needs of their staff, students and local population.



5. College of Physician & Surgeon of Pakistan (CPSP), Regional Office Building. Lahore. Vice President & National Council Members

Context of that organisation

CPSP is the postgraduate medical institute of Pakistan with 26000 members (65% public, 15% Army and 15% private). It has 73 fellowship and 23 membership programmes including fellowship in community medicine and diploma in Hospital Management. It conducts programmes in Nepal and Saudi Arabia and has MOUs with many countries including Ireland which allow its fellows to be recognised as consultant in those countries. Its reputation for innovation in professional training and standards is well known e.g. competency-based modules, on-line Part 1 examination and electronic CPD diary and revalidation.

Areas of need for collaboration

Focus of discussion was on support for clinical quality and medical leadership skills. They have international conference IT facilities.



Day 3: 24th February 2015 – Lahore

6. King Edward Medical University (KEMU)

Prof Farid Ahmad Khan (Registrar KEMU)

Context of that organisation

It is the oldest (est. 1860) and a prestigious medical school in Asia. This is an autonomous medical university with a 1700 bedded teaching hospital (Mayo Hospital). We met with the final year medical students and senior staff.

Areas of need for collaboration

They raised concerns about the new challenges faced by young Pakistani doctors wishing to enter into the UK higher training programmes. This would reduce the exposure for them to learn from the NHS and transfer those skills and experience to improve patient care in Pakistan in coming years. The way to improve the situation might be to help them with

- (i) finding undergraduate attachments (this does not require the GMC registration),
- (ii) time limited post graduate fellowship training in UK, building on a model developed by the British Associate of Plastic Surgeons, in other specialities
- (iii) joint research opportunities



7. Prof Mahmood Shaukat & team University of Health Sciences (UHS) Khayaban-e-Jamia Punjab Lahore 54000

Context of that organisation

This is the body which conducts exams and regulates 74 health institutes including 36 medical colleges in Punjab. They are central to ensuring the quality of undergraduate medical and

allied professional education. They reported that few medical schools currently have medical education departments.

Areas of need for collaboration

They expressed specific need for help in

- developing clinical quality assurance departments in the each and every hospital attached with UHS
- more ideas from abroad particularly in supporting establishment of medicines regulation and quality assurance
- support for setting up a trailblazer medical education quality initiative in some of their key health institutes

8. University of Punjab – Institute of Public Health (IPH) (Abdul Rehman Chughtai Rd off Jail Road) <http://iph.pitb.gov.pk/overview>

Prof Maaz Ahmad - Dean and team.

Context of that organisation

This is the only Government institute for public health in Punjab. Established in 1949 it has three main objectives (technical support, education and research). It has 13 departments including dental public health. They have recently supported the Government to manage a serious outbreak of Dengue Fever. The institute runs masters programmes in PH, maternal and child health and hospital management, only for doctors. The CPSP fellowship programme in community medicine is supported by the IPH. They are planning to change their current 1 year masters to a 2 year full time modular programme.

Areas of need for collaboration

There are opportunities to collaborative with a UK PH organisation to help them in achieving their objectives and modernising their PH approaches. This would work well for a 'market place' conference with interested parties in the UK.



9. Fatima Jinnah Medical College, Ganga Ram Hospital

Prof Sardar Fakhar Iman. Principal and his senior team

Context of that organisation

This is a woman-only medical college with a teaching hospital on two sites. They are the only place we visited which has an MoU - with the Scottish Government.

Areas of need for collaboration

They are interested in deeper collaboration to realise the benefits of the existing MoU in Scotland

They felt strongly that our visit and subsequent interaction will help to raise awareness in Government of the benefits of community prevention.

10. Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital Trust Trust, 7A Block R-3 M.A Johar Town, Lahore
<https://www.shaukatkhanum.org.pk/>

Dr Faysal Sultan, CEO, Dr Aasim Yusuf, Medical Director

Context of that organisation

This is the nation's top cancer hospital, established through philanthropy, led by famous cricketer and politician Imran Khan and is expanding to Peshawar now. They are running 2 cancer registries in collaboration with 17 partners. It has an impressive electronic patient record system.

Areas of need for collaboration

They were once in collaboration with Christie Hospital in Manchester (since stopped) and they are very well networked internationally.

They would like to do more prevention as they are not involved in screening. Supported could be explored with interested NHS partners.



Day 5: 25th February 2015 – Sahiwal

11. Sahiwal Civil Hospital DHQ Trauma Unit Via Al Mahmood Foundation

Tahir Mahmood of Al Mahmood Foundation and clinical colleagues

Context of that organisation

This is an interesting model of a local NGO working with Government establishing a neurosurgery and orthopaedic centres inside this Government District General Hospital. The NGO is sponsored by a British Pakistani family. It was established in Sahiwal as there was no neurosurgical facility between Lahore and Multan (distance of 100 miles either way) and patients were being transfer at risk without proper diagnosis and treatment.

Areas of need for collaboration

The consultant gastroenterologist and chief clinical adviser to the foundation/NGO, was concerned to level of hep c patients embarked on a community prevention initiative to raise awareness among local barbers 7 years ago. As a result the prevalence has reduced to 3 % from 20%.

Abdul to follow up with Al Mahmood Foundation re developing a diagnostic centre in Sahiwal and to be explored with N2N.



Day 6: 26th February 2015

12. Jannat Aziz Eye Hospital Tufailabad Gagoo Mandi near Burewala <http://jannataziz.org/>

Dr M Sajjad (consultant ophthalmology) and team

Context of that organisation

This is one of the most impressive examples of a rural health care organisation which has made a huge mark in eye care to the local community in the last 10 years. It is founded and being sustained by another single British Pakistani philanthropist family. In addition to their eye services they have expanded into outreach school vision programmes and long term community support particularly following the 2013 and 2014 floods. The hospital has an ambitious extension programme including new dedicated facilities for paediatric ophthalmology, teaching and training and onsite doctor residences. We noted that 30% of all patients tested had hepatitis C.

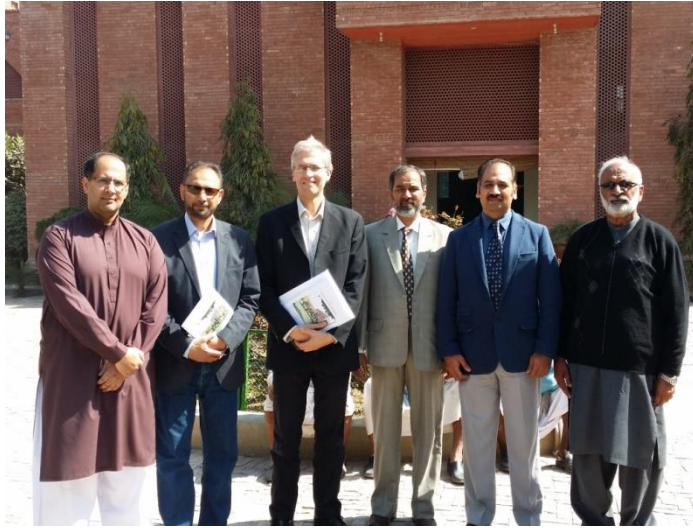
Areas of need for collaboration

Support on clinical quality

Hospital management

Prevention such as making every count for public health intervention

Sight for Life celebration dinner on 5th June 2015 in Manchester.



Conclusion and Next steps

As a result of this week long visit we plan to

- update N2N trustees.
- discuss with other relevant organisations who could support the areas we have identified.
- plan to work with UK Government Organisations (PHE, NHS Scotland, DFID) to run a market place meeting using on-line conferencing to work from this work on and agree one or two priorities.