

Borders NHS Board

ZAMBIA TWINNING ARRANGEMENT

Aim

The purpose of this report is to recommend the Board approves a renewed commitment to the twinning arrangement, as detailed in this report, with the newly formed independent charity 'St Francis Hospital Twinning Partnership with NHS Borders - Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation' (SC046815).

Background

NHS Borders and St Francis Hospital, Zambia have worked together in a twinning arrangement to provide support to the improvement and development of healthcare within the hospital. This arrangement was approved by the NHS Borders Board in December 2008. In support of the arrangement a twinning partnership committee was introduced to work within an agreed terms of reference to coordinate and govern all twinning activities.

A specific restricted Endowment Fund was put in place to support financial transactions in connection with the activities of the twinning partnership committee.

The Borders Health Board Endowment Fund operates as a registered charity with the purpose to promote healthcare within Scottish Borders. The Endowment Board of Trustees is required to operate within Charities legislation and in line with the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator in delivery of the charitable purpose.

The Endowment Fund Board of Trustees reviewed and implemented, in line with NHS Scotland, an Endowment Fund Charter which provides the governance framework for the NHS Borders Endowment Fund.

At a meeting in May 2015 the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees agreed that the St Francis Hospital, Zambia Twinning arrangement is not in line with the NHS Borders Charities purpose. The Trustees agreed to continue to hold 'as custodians' the restricted endowment fund for Zambia whilst a review of alternative arrangement was considered.

A number of discussions have been held over the last three months where the Board with the support of members of the Twinning Committee have considered arrangements. These are summarised in the remainder of the paper.

Summary of the Discussions on the Twinning Arrangements

The Board has considered and it is recommended the Board agrees the following

- a renewed commitment to twinning.
- to support the newly set up Independent Twinning Charity 'St Francis Hospital Twinning Partnership with NHS Borders - Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation' (SC046815).

- to support the aims of the Independent Twinning Charity as follows
 1. To support the formally established twinning partnership with NHS Borders to achieve improvements in service delivery and patient experience at St Francis Hospital, Zambia
 2. To promote the value of voluntary engagement in global health for NHS Borders staff and partners in bringing knowledge, skills and ideas back to the UK
 3. To raise income and monitor expenditure in support of the above
- to request the Board of Trustees to transfer the balance on the existing Zambia Twinning Endowment Fund to the Independent Twinning Charity.
- to apply the Board's existing Secondment Policy for NHS Borders employees who wish to volunteer to support the Twinning Charity's work in Zambia.
- to formally state that NHS Borders has no legal obligation for the Independent Twinning Charity's business.
- to receive on an annual basis an update on the Independent Twinning Charity's activities.
- to apply the disclaimer and personal liability recording process for all NHS Borders employees who wish to volunteer in support of the Independent Twinning Charity.
- to enable first consideration of obsolete or surplus equipment to be given to the Independent Twinning Charity. Disposal costs and purchase prices of such equipment should be agreed in each individual instance.
- to permit the use NHS Borders IM&T equipment to support virtual volunteering for the Charity during employee's non work time provided this does not incur a charge for the Board.
- to provide support, which may if appropriate include a charge, from the Board's communications, finance and occupational health service teams to the Independent Twinning Charity.
- to support a payroll giving facility for NHS Borders employees to donate to the Independent Twinning Charity from their pay.

Assessment

NHS Borders has had in place a twinning arrangement since 2008. In support of this NHS Borders Endowment Fund Board of Trustees have acted as custodians to the monies held in the Endowment Fund for Zambia Training and Development.

The Twinning Committee have set up an independent charity 'St Francis Hospital Twinning Partnership with NHS Borders Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation' (SC046815).

Details of the Independent Twinning Charity, its constitution and governance arrangements have been discussed by the Board over the last few months.

This report highlights the points discussed and recommends the Board agrees that the twinning arrangements as detailed in this report continue with the new independent twinning charity.

Recommendation

The Board is recommended to

- **note** the contents of this report

- **approve** a renewed commitment to the twinning arrangement as detailed in this report with the newly formed independent charity 'St Francis Hospital Twinning Partnership with NHS Borders - Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation' (SC046815).

Policy/Strategy Implications	Ensures compliance to Endowment Fund Charter
Consultation	Recommendations made in line with Board Policy
Consultation with Professional Committees	N/A
Risk Assessment	Reputational risk aspects of the Twinning Arrangements considered within the report.
Compliance with Board Policy requirements on Equality and Diversity	Assessment to be completed.
Resource/Staffing Implications	As described in the paper

Approved by

Name	Designation	Name	Designation
Carol Gillie	Director of Finance, Procurement, Estates & Facilities		

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Name	Designation
Susan Swan	Deputy Director of Finance		