

The Alan & Cyril Body Trust

Registered Charity No 1133557



Mulago Report

December-January 2012

December was a challenging month for me. For two weeks I was the only SHO covering the labour ward which is usually covered by 3-4 SHOs. This was because the SHO's were all on exam leave. Unfortunately the interns were on strike over this very same period because of issues over pay. Two specialists were timetabled to cover the labour ward daily, however frequently only one specialist turned up and they favoured to go to theatre, leaving me to cover labour ward without the assistance of interns. I felt very vulnerable during this time. I often had to call Sarah, my supervisor asking her for help because I could not contact the specialist on call. I am afraid to say that this is a dangerous time for the pregnant women of Mulago. I propose in the future exams are staggered over a 3-4 week period providing at least some SHO cover. There also needs to be some accountability for those specialists who do not turn up for duty.

After the hectic two weeks on labour ward it was a welcome break to visit Kabubbu health centre. The work I have been doing there has been really rewarding. Last week I spoke to 30 women who had travelled to Kabubbu to discuss family planning. They were very inquisitive and had a real thirst for knowledge. This was really encouraging and the first step in addressing one of my aims at Kabubbu- improving access to contraception. The re-training programme for the midwives and nurses at Kabubbu is going well and has been received positively. Later in the month I will be visiting over a weekend to begin the health education programme to women and their families in the community.

As I mentioned in my previous report, with the LMP visit in November we distributed 'kits' to midwives on ward 5B. I am pleased to report that the midwives are very fond of their kits. I have not heard of any of the equipment breaking, getting lost or being stolen. I have commenced the evaluation process which involves looking at case notes before and after implementation to evaluate whether or not more observations are being recording since introducing the kits.

Finally I have been delighted with the progress made at Kawempe health centre. The nurse in charge is dedicated to her job and committed to improving services. With her help we have really been able to push forward the work on the theatre. The work is currently complete and all that is left to do now is cleaning and fumigation. However despite this I fear that the theatre will not have the impact we desire because of the lack of doctors. At present Kawempe has no medical officer. The senior doctor in charge is a specialist in O&G, however is often not there because of other commitments. I hope to spend more time at Kawempe but this will depend on my commitments to Mulago and also the presence of senior support if I require it.