

Ceri Gallivan & Kieran Dinwoodie (former GP volunteers), Birungi Mutahunga (Medical Superintendent), Bwindi Community Hospital

Kieran.Dinwoodie@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Volunteer applications welcome!

Aims/Objectives

To learn about the professional and personal development which GPs gain through working at a RCGP partnered hospital in Uganda.

Results:2

Clinical

"I feel the experience has made me a more holistic doctor and less afraid of managing complexity and uncertainty" and "It exposed me to a huge variety of medical conditions that I think really improved my clinical skills"

Teaching

"I had never done any teaching prior to working at Bwindi...I found there were many opportunities to teach...and ward rounds became excellent learning opportunities"

Academic Medicine

"It was something I never had the opportunity to do in the UK. It made me appreciate the role of academic research in improving healthcare"

Management

"I had no management experience before. I learnt a lot about managing people, building teams and resolving conflicts"

Leadership

"Other staff often held you up as a leader whether deserved or not and this forced you to take a leadership role in the running of departments and resources"

Personal Development

"I learnt a lot about myself, have become more resilient and self confident"

Working in General Practice:

"Taking time out of UK general practice has given me a new perspective on work and re-invigorated my interest in medicine" also "Unfortunately as a sessional GP there is little opportunity to use the skills I gained in teaching, management and quality improvement, which is disappointing"

Career planning

"The experience of teaching/training at Bwindi really increased my interest in becoming a trainer" and "I would like to be more involved with management so have been considering my career plans"

Recommend to others

"I would recommend it to everyone, the best job I've ever had!"

Background

The RCGP-Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) partnership was formalised in 2013 and is now part of the RCGP International and Overseas Network. Two GPs (usually A&Ts and First 5 GPs) work at BCH for a year at a time undertaking clinical work covering outpatients and inpatients alongside quality improvement activities which promote family medicine.

Quality improvement examples include:

- USHAPE family planning training model
- Confidential Enquiry into Child and Maternal Deaths
- Developing chronic disease clinics and alcohol addiction services



Methods

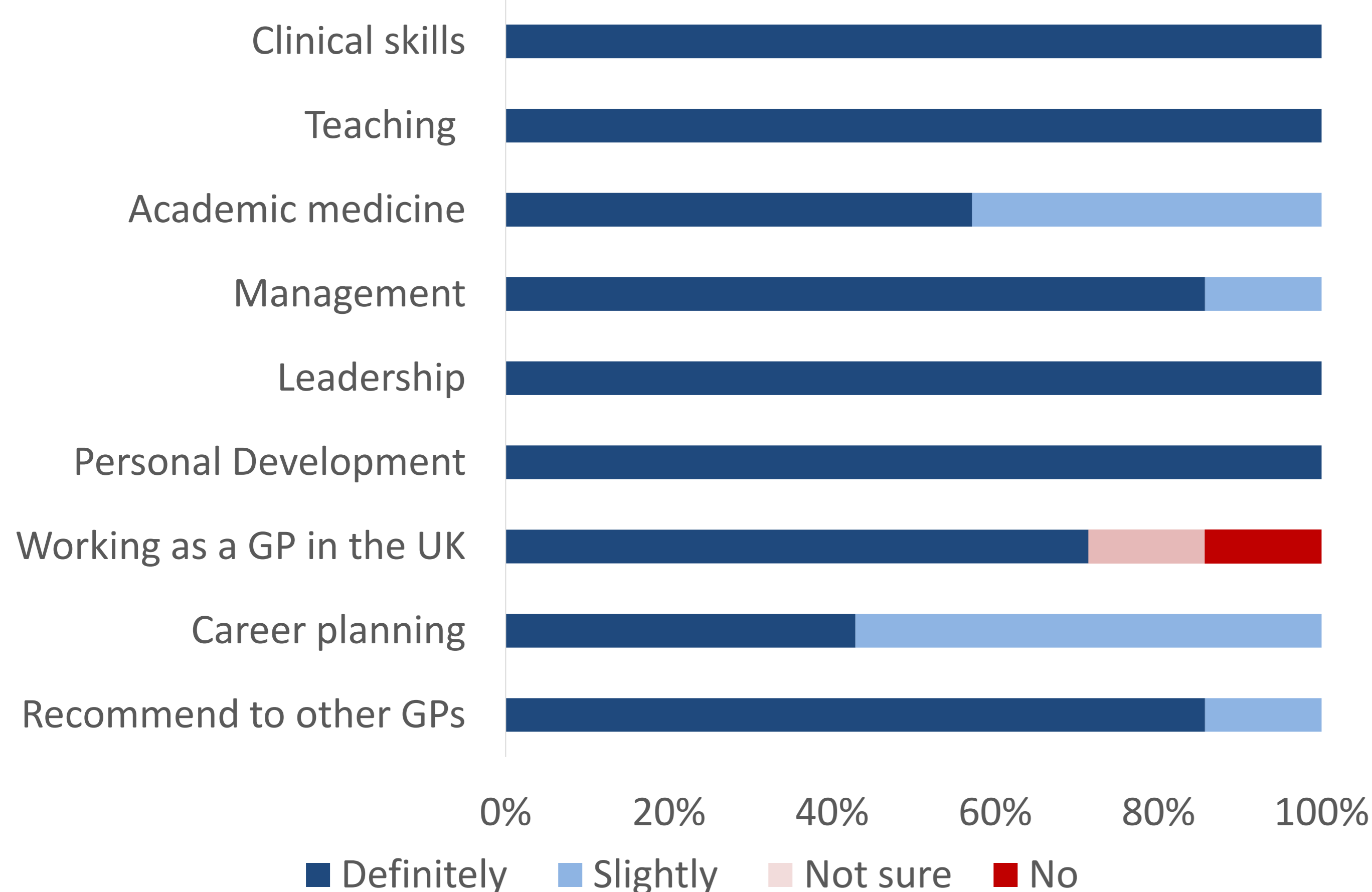
In November 2016 a qualitative survey was sent to all eight former volunteers. Seven GPs responded (88% response). The survey asked how the placement assisted development in key professional domains (Results:1). A free text section was also included (Results:2).

Relevance/Outcomes

These clinical and quality improvement activities develop essential services overseas whilst enhancing key skills of the GP volunteers involved. This is in line with the 2011 RCGP Ten Year International Strategy "Transforming Our Approach to International Affairs." The report advocated the promotion of family medicine globally and highlighted the need for collaborative working with overseas partners.

Results:1

Did working at BCH assist with:



Conclusion

GPs volunteers in Bwindi report multiple areas of professional and personal development which are transferrable to working in General Practice in the UK.