

# THC Update

News from the board of Transform Healthcare Cambodia

April 2026

Registered UK charity number 1154437



## A Message from the Chair

Dear Members, Volunteers and Supporters

I am pleased to share an update following our recent Board meeting. As always, I am incredibly grateful for the continued commitment, energy, and compassion shown by everyone involved in [Transform Healthcare Cambodia](#).

While the past few months have presented some challenges, we remain focused, resilient, and optimistic about the year ahead. Our programmes continue to grow in strength and impact, and we are particularly excited about the opportunities to reconnect, celebrate, and expand our work during 2026 and beyond.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Warm regards  
Sue Smith OBE  
Chair  
[suesmithobe@gmail.com](mailto:suesmithobe@gmail.com)



## Celebrating success



We were delighted to recognise Graham Jones for being shortlisted for a national healthcare education award - an outstanding achievement that reflects the quality and impact of his and our work.

# Looking Ahead: 10-Year Student Celebration

We are hoping to hold a Celebration Event on 17 June 2026 to mark 10 years since the first second year nursing students from Teesside University travelled to Cambodia. We're hoping this will be a wonderful opportunity to:

- *reconnect with past volunteers and students*
- *celebrate a decade of partnership with Teesside University*
- *share future ambitions*

More details will be shared soon - *please save the date!*



## Financial overview



The Board reviewed the current financial position:

- Income: £8,351
- Expenditure: £10,341
- Deficit: £1,990

While this reflects a challenging period, we are actively exploring funding opportunities and strengthening financial oversight to ensure sustainability.

Roka Hospital Director Dr Eng Sangam has shared an important vision to expand the hospital's services, helping to meet growing healthcare needs within the community.

While [Transform Healthcare Cambodia](#) does not directly fundraise for infrastructure or equipment, we are able to receive and carefully steward funds raised independently by our supporters for this purpose. It is important that any donations are clearly designated for this specific initiative so they can be directed appropriately.

We are incredibly grateful to those who feel inspired to organise fundraising efforts in support of this development. Your support can help make a meaningful difference to the care available at Roka Hospital.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Mike Kirtley, who is stepping down as Finance Director after many years of dedicated service. Recruitment for this important role is now underway. If you know a fabulous finance professional who might be interested in taking over from Mike, please get in touch.

# Programme and Visit Updates

## *June 2026 Study Tour (Cambodian Visitors to the UK)*

Preparations are well underway to welcome our Cambodian colleagues:

- NHS and university placements confirmed
- Visa processes in progress
- Participation in our 10-year celebration event

This visit is a key part of our ongoing partnership and knowledge exchange.



## *Student Nurse Programmes – 2026*

We received an incredible 38 applications for the June trip, with 11 students selected.

- June/July 2026  
Students depart 25 June, with placements beginning 29 June
- November 2026  
Planning will begin in July

Turing funding applications are in progress, and THC continue to support students with in-country travel arrangements.

## *Future Visits – Battambang Programme*

2026

- 29 June – Student nurses to Battambang
- November – Student nurses to Battambang

2027

- 11–15 January – Registered healthcare team
- June/July (TBC) – Student nurses
- 27 September – 1 October – Registered healthcare team
- November (TBC) – Student nurses



To improve programme delivery, we have adjusted scheduling so that registered practitioner visits will move to September from 2027 onwards.

*Join our mailing list!* If you'd like to receive regular updates from the Board, information about our work and opportunities to join future trips, please join our mailing list by contacting THC Update editor Claire Young at [claire.thc@yahoo.com](mailto:claire.thc@yahoo.com)

# Developing Future Leaders

We are continuing to strengthen our Associate Board Member programme as part of our commitment to developing future leaders within [Transform Healthcare Cambodia](#).

We will shortly be opening recruitment for new Associate Board Members and would warmly welcome expressions of interest from individuals who are passionate about global health, leadership, and making a meaningful contribution to our work.

If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more, please do get in touch with THC chair Sue Smith at [suesmithobe@gmail.com](mailto:suesmithobe@gmail.com) – we would be delighted to hear from you.

## Improving Communication

You told us you want to hear more from us - and we've listened.

- ✓ A newsletter will now be shared after every Board meeting
- ✓ We are strengthening our contact systems
- ✓ We will continue to grow our online presence

## Governance and Good Practice

All Board members will be completing GDPR training ahead of our next meeting to ensure we continue to meet the highest standards of governance.

## Get Involved

Whether you are a past volunteer, supporter, or new to our work, there are many ways to get involved:

- let us know if you'd be interested in attending a 10 year celebration
- apply for future programmes
- express interest in the Associate Board Member programme
- support fundraising initiatives
- help spread the word

## Thank you

We are proud of what we continue to achieve together. None of this would be possible without your support, dedication, and belief in our mission.

