

THC Update

News from the board of Transform Healthcare Cambodia

October 2026, issue 3

Registered UK charity number 1154437



A message from the Chair

Dear Members, Volunteers and Supporters

As we move into the final months of 2026, there is plenty happening at Transform Healthcare Cambodia. Our September Board meeting gave us an opportunity to reflect on another busy year, look ahead to our 2027 programmes and welcome two new members to the THC team. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support.

Warm regards

Sue Smith OBE
Chair
suesmithobe@gmail.com



Reflecting on our student programme

At the board meeting, chair Sue fed back on behalf of Graham Jones that the July student nurse placement in Battambang was successful overall and once again provided students with a valuable opportunity to experience healthcare in a very different environment.

High levels of dengue in Battambang meant that some planned clinical experiences had to be adapted, including withdrawing students from the paediatric placement at Battambang Provincial Referral Hospital. The safety and wellbeing of our volunteers and students will always remain our first priority.

In light of changing circumstances, future student nurse programmes are currently *under review*.

We will provide further information when plans for future placements have been agreed.

The Board also took time to recognise the enormous contribution Graham Jones has made to our student programme over more than a decade.

Hundreds of students have benefited from opportunities in Cambodia during that time, and Graham's experience will continue to be invaluable as we develop future programmes and the next generation of THC team leaders.



Welcoming our new associate board members

We were delighted to formally welcome **Cheryle Buckle and Kayleigh Dixon** as Associate Board Members.

Our Associate Board Member programme is designed to develop future charity and programme leaders by giving participants experience of governance, Board working and the leadership of our programmes in Cambodia. Cheryle and Kayleigh will each be supported by an experienced Board mentor as they progress through the programme.

Cheryle said:

“My previous role at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust was a Senior Occupational Therapist specialising in posture and pressure management in wheelchairs. I left this post at the start of March and began my new role immediately after.



“My new role is Specialist Occupational Therapist in Hartlepool adult community mental health services for Tees, Esk and Wear NHS Foundation Trust. Occupational therapists are dual trained in mental and physical health which allows us to work across different sectors and health settings.

“I have just begun my second year at Teesside University studying a master’s degree in trauma informed practice. The knowledge, skills and potential research opportunities links in perfectly to our mission with THC and my role here in the UK.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue the wonderful collaborative work with our UK and Khmer colleagues, in the quest to pursue global health equity, whilst developing my skills as a health practitioner through the global health and leadership mentorship programme. Exciting times and special thanks THC.”

Kayleigh has recently qualified as a registered nurse and has interviews lined up at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust where she did most of her training.

She said: “After travelling to Cambodia with THC as a student nurse, I knew I wanted to stay involved with the charity and build on such a valuable experience.

“Seeing healthcare in Cambodia first-hand strengthened my interest in global health, health inequalities and the importance of sharing knowledge and skills to support sustainable change.

“Becoming an Associate Board Member felt like a natural next step, allowing me to contribute to a charity I feel strongly connected to while developing my own leadership skills.



“I’m excited to learn from the wider board, bring my perspective as a newly qualified nurse and help strengthen the links between healthcare professionals in Cambodia and the UK.”

Looking ahead to Cambodia in 2027



Paul and Jan Tynan reported that planning is progressing well for our next professional healthcare programme in Battambang in **January 2027**. Our team is already working with Cambodian clinical colleagues to develop the programme around locally identified priorities.

Our provisional programme for 2027 also includes preparing for our annual **UK Study Tour in June**, when we hope to welcome Cambodian healthcare professionals to the UK, and a further registered healthcare professional programme in Battambang in **September/October**.

Catherine Randall will lead the September 2027 trip, supported by Sue. We are currently recruiting for this.

These programmes remain central to our philosophy: developing sustainable partnerships,

sharing knowledge in both directions and supporting Cambodian healthcare professionals to lead improvements within their own services.



Programme and Visit Updates

Future Visits - Battambang Programme

2027

11-15 January 2027: Registered healthcare team to Battambang, led by Paul and Jan Tynan

7-18 June 2027: UK Study Tour

27 September- 1 October: Registered healthcare team to Battambang, led by Catherine Randall

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

Developing research opportunities

We are also exploring new opportunities to support research opportunities that might be developed with our Cambodian colleagues. Our board director for research Daniel Jones identified several potential funding opportunities, with early discussions including possible work around **waste and water management in Roka**, building upon the work already

being undertaken by Dr Samnang and his colleagues within local homes and villages.

This represents an exciting opportunity to broaden our work beyond education and training while continuing to focus on practical health-related improvements that can make a difference to local communities.



Investing in our future

October will see our **Annual General Meeting**, and our annual **Board Development Day**, when we will take time away from our regular operational business to look at the future of THC.

This year we will review our policies and governance arrangements and begin updating our strategic direction for the next five years. Our Associate Board Members will also take part in a dedicated development session exploring the responsibilities involved in charity governance.

Thank you for your support

Fundraising remains essential to everything we do. We are continuing to explore grant opportunities to support our study tours, leadership development and work in Cambodia.

We are particularly grateful to Amy Ramsay, who is taking on the remarkable challenge of a 70-mile ultra-marathon to raise funds for Transform Healthcare Cambodia. Every contribution helps us continue our work alongside our Cambodian colleagues.

Amy said: “As a newly qualified nurse, I had the opportunity to complete an international placement to Cambodia in 2025; my second year. The people and the sheer beauty of Cambodia inspired me to give back and support the healthcare system in a country so close to my heart.

“In 2027 I will be completing *The Wall Ultramarathon* for the second time to raise money for such an amazing charity, with every tough step dedicated to supporting the healthcare system. If anyone would like to donate, no matter how small, it would be much appreciated.”

You can donate at [Amy's ultra marathon](#). Good luck Amy!

