Re: Call for views on destitution and asylum in Scotland

Dear Ms McKelvie,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit information on current policy and practice to inform the above-referenced inquiry. NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is a national special health board responsible for education, training and workforce development for those who work in and with NHSScotland. We have a Scotland-wide role in undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development and our mission is to provide education that enables excellence in health and care for the people of Scotland.

NES is one of the partners supporting the New Refugee Doctors Project. Funded by £161,692 from the Scottish Government, the New Refugee Doctors Project is unique in the UK in supporting medically trained and qualified refugees to achieve medical registration and contribute their skills to NHS Scotland, as well as offering a long-term package of support. The project is run by the Bridges Programmes in partnership with the British Medical Association and NHS Education for Scotland, and Clyde College and the City of Glasgow College. The funding will help suitably qualified refugees access training, language support and professional mentoring to help them meet the standards for professional registration with the General Medical Council and practise medicine here in Scotland. As part of the funding, the doctors have committed to working for NHS Scotland.

The programme is unique in the UK – unlike other refugee doctor programmes, there are placement and clinical attachments around understanding the structure, culture and ethics of NHS Scotland. It also gives doctors access to postgraduate study and dedicated support for learning English, meaning doctors are supported not just through the GMC registration, but on-going support through post-registration and job hunting. It is also the first in the UK to involve a partnership between the third sector, further education and NHS.
Under this programme, we provide supported clinical attachments in partnership with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and other NHS boards to support passing of the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) examination, which is the route by which International Medical Graduates (IMGs) demonstrate to the General Medical Council that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to practise medicine in the UK, and to support integrating into the NHS in Scotland. We also fund preparation courses for PLAB exams and travel and accommodation to support candidates sitting the exams.

More generally, we work in partnership with NHS boards, education institutions and professional and regulatory bodies to deliver education and training for everyone from doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and psychologists, to healthcare scientists, optometrists, healthcare chaplains, healthcare support workers, and management trainees.

There are a number of NES psychology educational resources which support trauma-informed care in NHSScotland which would be relevant to asylum seekers. In Children’s and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) we have developed an e-learning module which covers trauma-informed care, single event and complex trauma. To supplement the module, using a blended learning approach, we have 2 further training strands which are Trauma-focussed Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (for clinicians already trained in CBT) and Introducing Trauma & Resilience, which is open to all CAMHS staff. Similar training programmes addressing trauma in adults are also available, including modules focussing on introduction to trauma; safety and stabilisation; prolonged exposure; survive and thrive.

We are currently developing a multiprofessional Knowledge and Skills Framework for Trauma, for publication in April 2017, which will support staff to understand what they need to know and be able to do to support survivors of trauma, which many asylum seekers are likely to be. It will also help managers and organisations understand what their teams' training needs are and what training or development they will need to commission or develop to meet these needs.

NES also provides educational support for delivery of the Family Nurse Partnership in Scotland. The Family Nurse Partnership is a voluntary home visiting programme for young mothers (aged 19 or under) which aims to help young mothers have a healthy pregnancy, improve their child’s health and development, and plan their own future and achieve their aspirations. Further information about the Family Nurse Partnership is available at http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/early-years/parenting-early-learning/family-nurse-partnership/background .

I hope that you find this information to be a useful contribution to your inquiry.

Sincerely yours

Caroline Lamb
Chief Executive