



# Ethnicity Training Network



## Good Practice Showcase

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Host Media Centre, Leeds 8

### Workshop

Refugee Healthcare Professionals  
A moral responsibility, and a resource for the NHS

### Presenter(s):

Clare Rayner  
Reache North West  
Salford Royal Foundation NHS Trust

### Background - why did you develop the work?

In 2001 Dr Maeve Keaney, Centre Director became aware of the problems refugee healthcare professionals faced returning to work in their professional role in the NHS. An advertisement was placed in the local newspaper and 30 refugee doctors responded and attended a one day conference to access information and advice.

### What did you aim to achieve?

Establish an education and training centre for refugee healthcare professionals.

Help refugee healthcare professionals to pass all the necessary UK qualifications which would enable them to be eligible to apply for work in the NHS.

Raise awareness of the problems facing refugee healthcare professionals with colleagues in the NHS.

Secure funding for the Centre once the 3 year Service Level Agreement came to an end.

### What did you actually do?

Dr Keaney and colleagues produced a business plan and applied for funding to establish an education and training centre for refugee health professionals living in the North West.

Successfully obtained funding for a period of 3 years and established the Centre in April 2003 within an acute NHS Trust.

The Centre now has secure funding from NHS Northwest and is supported by Salford Royal Foundation NHS Trust.

**How did you measure the impact of your work?**

81 refugee health professionals have returned to work in their professional roles in the NHS since Reache North West was established in April 2003.

75 members are currently receiving support.

An additional 101 have received support from the project during the past 4 years – many have now moved out of the North West to other areas of the UK.

**What results or feedback have you had?**

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**Conclusions and recommendations** – what have you learnt from doing this work? What lessons would you pass on to others?

Not all members will be able to return to their professional role – some will need alternative career advice.

Have very clear rules on punctuality and attendance so that the membership group start to learn about cultural differences from the time they join Reache North West.