



COMPASSIONATE PALLIATIVE SERVICES

COMPASS *Ghana*

June Edition 2021

“Developing Palliative and End of Life care Capacity in Ghana and Beyond”

Introduction

Over the last six months, Dr Yakubu Salifu, John Davies and Katie Eccles along with other key contributors have been planning the creation of an End of Life/ Palliative Care Charity, to operate out of Ghana from 2022 in direct support of the current agencies on the ground, to directly reinforce their excellent work so far.

Thank you for being a part of that journey and for sharing your expertise and knowledge. We just wanted to bring you up to date.

Journey to Date

Our focus has been on researching the issues, current capability, and aspirations for palliative and end-of-life care. We have considered the [Ministry of Health’s Road Map \(2020 to 2030\)](#), their costed plans and their intent towards delivering universal health care by 2030. The links to key political and socio-economic outcomes such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have investigated the wider geopolitical trends, alliances with the World Health Organisation and key international financial institutions around investment and growth and Ghana’s commitment to becoming a key influencer within the continent of Africa.

From our perspective, Ghana is an appropriate entry point for COMPASS *Ghana*, a charity seeking to support and develop a world-class – and ultimately self-funding – palliative and end of life ecosystem in a developing country setting. In Ghana, there is a [significant unmet](#)

[need](#) with a socio-economic context and [system of healthcare delivery](#) and financing that makes it possible to achieve rapid and self-sustaining results. There are [challenging issues](#) around the delivery of palliative care and end-of-life care. It is potentially solvable within a meaningful timeframe because the underlying infrastructure is already in place.

Critically we have been developing a network and a story to tell.

Early Days

We are formulating the business plan, but we now have a clear direction of travel. We are establishing a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in the UK. We will also be renaming our Ghanaian entity, Prostate Cancer Support Heritage (Pro CaSH), to reflect our new vision. Both charities will operate in parallel, under the new name COMPASS *Ghana*, with a clear Memorandum of Understanding between them. They will share key executive roles – Chief Executive (CEO) - Dr Yakubu Salifu, Chief Operating Officer (COO) – John Davies and a Chief Finance Officer (CFO). The UK arm will secure funding; oversee governance, advocacy and engagement. We will link to education and medical research and develop links for secondments and placements into Ghana. The Ghanaian arm will develop and deliver the operational capability and ensure effective integration and support to the existing infrastructure and capability. There will be a strong relationship between the two charities. Strategy, governance, cooperation, advocacy, and transparency will be the essential elements of this relationship.

Several key trustees and ambassadors have been identified and discussions around purpose and objectives are in hand. Once signed up and registered we will develop and launch our holding website.



Logo

Our thanks to Katie Silberston for helping us through the thinking of our Logo.



Compassionate Palliative Services

Charitable Purpose

We are currently applying to the UK Charities Commission to establish COMPASS *Ghana* as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, we have yet to decide on its voting structure – a Foundation or an Association – the former

Vision, Mission, Values and Outcomes

Vision

“A society where living and dying hold equal value”.

Mission

“To enable access to compassionate palliative and end of life care for all.”

Strapline

“Palliative Care for All”

Values:

COMPASS *Ghana* holds dear to six values that will drive our collaborative approach and influence the way we behave internally and with our patients, their families, and

voting rights sit within the Trustees the latter a wider membership.

Our stated purpose:

The purpose of COMPASS - *Ghana* is for the public benefit of Ghana and the wider region to operate and fund the advancement of health through the relief of symptoms, anguish and distress among people with life-limiting conditions at the end of their life. COMPASS Ghana’s core roles include, but are not limited to, the provision of holistic care, treatment, financial support, education, research, training, advocacy, and practical advice.

The scope of the charity will include the patient (Child to Adult), their families, dependants, caregivers, and communities and will work alongside and support conventional agencies and any further action that the trustees, from time to time, see fit and incidental or conducive to any of those objectives.

caregivers as well as our stakeholders. These values will collectively ensure that COMPASS *Ghana* provides direction, navigation and orientation for patients and families who need palliative and end of life care.

☀️ **Compassionate** – we strive to understand and identify the needs of our patients, families, and caregivers along with our partners and the community we serve, in a manner that is compassionate, non-judgemental and empathetic.

☀️ **Committed** – we place our patients, families and caregivers along with our partners and community at the centre of everything we do. We commit to working towards a shared vision, and in our behaviours be adaptable and inspiring.

☀️ **Accountable** – to manage expectations through open and transparent communication, be accountable to the



communities and organisations that we serve and hold partners accountable on behalf of these communities.

- ✦ **Impactful** – to develop evidence-led evaluations to share learnings and capture the clinical/ social value and impact and outcomes of our work.
- ✦ **Innovative** – we will constantly challenge the status quo and seek out new ways to deliver compassionate care. We will be a centre of excellence, where innovation, research and new methodologies of care will be the norm.
- ✦ **Financial Stewardship** – we believe in open and strong governance, where financial activity is transparent and accountable. Sustainable funding and strong stewardship will underpin our ambitions.

Outcomes

We will deliver this Charitable Purpose through:

- ✦ The creation of COMPASS – Ghana, a Charitable Integrated Organisation (CIO) “Foundation” in the UK and in direct partnership with other legal entities as required.
- ✦ The relief of symptoms, anguish and distress among people suffering from any life-limiting illnesses as part of an integrated health programme.
- ✦ The advancement and advocacy of End-of-Life Care (Children to Adults) across the region. The remit will embrace more than cancer and may include, but not limited to, end-of-life diagnosis through cardiovascular, diabetes mellitus, chronic pulmonary diseases, motor neurone disease and

other communicable and non-communicable diseases.

- ✦ The development of an education and research capability embracing medical and clinical care, nursing, psychology, pharmacology, homoeopathy, and other traditional models of care underpinned by world-class partnerships.
- ✦ The empowerment of diverse and remote communities – through education, skills training and the sharing of knowledge amongst patients, families, and caregivers in order for them to be as self-reliant in their interventions and care as is reasonably possible and practicable.
- ✦ The advancement of clinical knowledge through a whole system approach as part of a wider Universal Health Care programme into resource-poor communities.
- ✦ The development, investment and deployment of technology to facilitate and enable access to end-of-life care.
- ✦ A strong sustainable financial model that is transparent and accountable, demonstrating strong fiduciary responsibilities.

Early Visits

COVID compliant, it is hoped to visit Hospice Africa in Kampala and Ghana in October 2021, but this is not a fixed deadline and will not prevent movement on developing the UK funding base. Post visits, the business plan will be adapted. Fundraising will begin in earnest. In April 2022, it is hoped that John Davies will take up residency in Ghana as an employee of the Ghanaian charity, to set up the initial relationships and establish the base



for the initial pilot. Key players will join as the project moves forward.

The Pilot

We propose, subject to discussions, which have yet to be orchestrated, to establish a pilot out of Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH). Our research to date suggests that despite the demographic movement southwards toward Accra, the Ashanti Region remains highly representative of Ghana in all regard to rural, peri-urban and urban environments. Presenting an ideal demographic to prove and develop the pilot. But no final decision has been made until we visit in October and have engaged with the key players and sought their advice and wisdom.

The key element for us is to help develop an integrated model where the operations of COMPASS *Ghana* are very much embedded in the mainstream health programme.

We will be developing several key pillars to support the initiative:

- Palliative Care
- Research and Education
- Compassionate Communities
- Technology as an enabler
- Advocacy
- Multimedia
- Economic Modelling
- Corporate/Charity integration
- Social Entrepreneurship.

Research Student

Lancaster University and Dr Yakubu are close to recruiting a PhD student to examine in-depth the issues around end-of-life care in resource-poor communities. Access to this research over the next eighteen months will greatly help our cause.

Networking:

We would really like to thank a range of people and organisations who have willingly given up their time on spec to listen, proffer advice and indicated a willingness to, at least, be kept in the “loop”.

- [Afri Kids](#)
- [All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care](#)
- [CHASE Africa](#)
- [Compassionate Communities centre of expertise \(COCO\)](#), Belgium
- [Compassionate Communities UK](#)
- [Dream Big Ghana Foundation](#)
- [EAPC Reference Group on Primary Care](#)
- [EAPC Reference Group on Public Health and Palliative Care](#)
- [Ghana Investment Promotion Centre](#)
- [Hospice Africa Uganda](#), Ann Merriman Foundation
- [International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care \(IAHPC\)](#)
- [International Observatory on End of Life Care \(IOELC\)](#), [Lancaster University](#), UK
- [Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital](#), Kumasi
- [Korle Bu Teaching Hospital](#), Accra
- [National Health Insurance Scheme](#), Ghana
- [Ridge Hospital](#), The Greater Accra Regional Hospital, Accra
- [World Child Cancer](#)
- [World Wide Palliative Care Alliance](#)

Look Forward

By the end of July, the COMPASS *Ghana* will be formed, an embryonic website created, and the campaign to generate funds and awareness begun. In October, we hope to conduct critical face-to-face meetings in Uganda and Ghana. By December, the full business plan will be released.



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Updates

I hope we can continue to update you with information particularly as the formal charitable body comes together. Our core mantra is around partnership and integration.

We also understand if you would prefer not to receive updates. In which event would you please respond...*"No thank you"* to john.davies@compass-gh.org

Next Edition

Our next edition will be in October, post our visit to Ghana – we will introduce you to the team and our partners on the ground.

Thank you from the COMPASS *Ghana* team.

June 2021