ELECTIVE (SSC5a) REPORT (1200 words)

A report that addresses the above four objectives should be written below. Your Elective supervisor will assess this.

Understanding the structure of the NHS and how policy driven decisions are made by healthcare leaders.

As part of this elective my supervisor delivered lectures on the structure of the NHS and the various changes the health service has undergone over its history. I had many fascinating talks with various team members about the different policies that

The NHS has undergone many periods of being many separate organisations to being more centrally run. One of the things that has previously held me back from being interested in this field is the seeming randomness in which the NHS has changed backwards and forwards. I had one fascinating talk with a manager about how structural change in the NHS should always be carried out in order to meet the challenges of the day. This really helped me understand why the structure of the NHS has changed back and forth and helped to peak my interest in this field. As part of this elective I was fortunate enough to see how organisations such as NHS England worked with sister organisations such as NHS Scotland. My previous assumptions was that in terms of health policy, especially in relation to some of the healthcare aims such as the digitalisation of all patient records by 2024, would be across all the devolved nations. However it was very interesting to meet members of the NHS Scotland team who were at a very different stage to educating their workforce on digital technologies compared to the NHS England team. One of the most interesting things about this elective has been gaining an understanding about how the practicalities of education work. To work with the NHS Scotland team, workshops were set up and reports were shared.

Explore the field of digital education and its applications at a national/local level.

As part of this elective I read up on publications such as the Topol review and the understanding healthcare workers confidence in health care report. I learnt a lot about the recent advances in digital health such as the increased use of AI technologies in radiological diagnostics. It was a great experience being part of an organization which considered the challenges in introducing these technologies in to the workforce. I learnt a lot about for example why appropriate confidence in these technologies is so important. Low confidence will lead to under utilisation of technologies. Inappropriate confidence will lead to inappropriate interpretations of results and could cause patient harm.

At the centre of all this work was the patient. One of the great things about working in clinical medicine is that the whole team was working to deliver patient centred care. It was a heart warming to see how behind the scenes the patient was still at the centre of all the work.

To experience different career options with combinations of clinical and non-clinical roles

One of my objectives for this elective period was to explore non clinical roles. Whilst I have very much enjoyed the clinical aspects of my placements so far I wanted to gain a better understanding of what a future career with a combination of clinical and non- clinical work might look like. At first I attended a two week placement with the coroner to explore the medico-legal world. This current placement has focused more on policy and health education within the workforce. There were many aspects that I enjoyed about both electives. For this elective I enjoyed the feeling that these policies were making a difference on a bigger scale.

My supervisor encouraged me to identify problems in my day to day work during my future work and reach out and think about fixing them. There is a high degree of moaning within the NHS (a lot of it justified) but it was refreshing to hear somebody speak positively about the NHS and also encourage me to think positively about, and give me the confidence to feel about to attempt to fix some of the problems that we would come across every day during our foundation years.

During both electives I found myself missing clinical medicine and becoming increasingly excited to start my foundation training. One of my reasons for picking these electives is that previously when I've spoke to consultants about their careers they have said that the clinical medicine can, at the end, get a bit mundane. They stressed the importance to be interested in different things as well and think around the clinical medicine. I believe I have done that with this elective but for the timebeing I'm excited to start my clinical medical journey

Conduct stakeholder engagement or research in digital health/ literacy

During this elective I wrote a research proposal with the aims to identify the learning needs of healthcare students in relation to digital health. One of the biggest learning points for me was the practical challenges of delivering education to a group of persons. At the start of thinking about delivering this education is a good learning needs assessment. Carrying that out requires surveys, workshops, questionnaires. It was great for me to practice thinking about these practicalities drawing on my learning experience from the meetings I sat in on.

Thinking about these practicalities was a good opportunity for me to reflect on how much I enjoy this aspect and how I would like this to feature in any future career of mine. To be able to troubleshoot and problem solve as a group is something that I have always valued, it is something that I spoke about in my medical school interviews.