

## **Tower Hamlets College praises ex-College students**

Tower Hamlets College welcomes back former students who have taken an inspiration trip to Bangladesh.

Former students Shahib Ali, Abdullaah Al-Mahmood and Salman Uddin, alongside other colleagues from their King's College London medicine degree, have spent months researching, planning and fundraising for their trip. The group, collectively part of the not-for-profit organisation Elective Aid, have been providing vital health camps in the area of Sylhet, Bangladesh.



"Things we take for granted in the UK are only at the grasp of the rich and well-off in Bangladesh," commented former THC student and Elective Aid member Shahib Ali. "We saw mothers that had never had the opportunity to take their child to a doctor, despite having serious problems."

The group of students saw about 2,500 patients on the first day alone, highlighting the plight of many in these poor areas of Bangladesh. Their job was to undertake the initial examination before referring each patient to a qualified doctor. "Such was the volume of patients, other patients would swarm over you hoping to grab your attention," added Shahib.

"We are extremely proud of our ex-students, and are so pleased we sponsored them on this trip," commented THC Vice-Principal, Gerry McDonald. "Many of our students at College have such strong links to this area in Bangladesh so it is fantastic to see our students, both present and former, understand the importance of helping the community – whether it is the community on our doorstep or the one a little further afield."

The group spent ten days in Bangladesh and have tried to make sure that Elective Aid is not a one off experience but something that will become an annual event.

"It has been such an eye-opening trip – on the one hand hugely rewarding, but on the other hugely dispiriting as we barely scratched the surface of the medical problems of the population out there. We are so grateful for the support from Tower Hamlets College, as it will allow us to ensure future generations of ex-College students who study at King's College London can return to provide this critical service to Sylhet."

To find out more go to [www.elective-aid.org](http://www.elective-aid.org)