**Isabel Bedford – The Music Therapy Charity report**

From mid-November 2017 to mid-February 2018, I undertook a three-month music therapy placement at an HIV clinic in Uganda, alongside another third-year trainee from UWE Bristol. There was no existing music therapy provision in this setting and my fellow trainee and I worked together to establish a suitable music therapy timetable.

During the placement, I had the opportunity to work with clients living with HIV across the age span. I co-delivered a wide range of group music therapy sessions, including drop-in sessions for mother and babies, sessions for children, young people and adults, and a weekly group for the staff team at the clinic. I also worked with a range of child/youth clients on an individual basis.

The placement provided an incredibly enriching learning opportunity, and I feel I benefitted both personally and professionally in myriad ways from the experience. I grew in confidence through the work and feel I learnt about the need for flexibility of approach, in order to respond to the needs of individual clients and to adapt to the broader context of the work. It also was a rich learning experience in terms of developing a deeper awareness of cross-cultural issues in music therapy. I hope to continue to be involved in international music therapy work in future.

After returning to the UK, I presented about the experience of working in Uganda at the student session at the BAMT conference, in February 2018. I also presented about the placement to the current second year trainees at UWE, as well as to the rest of the third year cohort during my end of year viva exam.

There were a number of costs involved in undertaking the placement, including return flights, accommodation, food, medical costs. The generous bursary I received from The Music Therapy Charity was an invaluable contribution towards these costs and I am very grateful for the support I received.