National District Nurses Network

Annual Report 2016-17

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MISSION STATEMENT

The National District Nurses Network operates collectively for the continual development of district nursing services in meeting the demands of an ever changing NHS client base.

INTRODUCTION

As we reach the end of the 2016/17 round of meetings, looking back and reflecting upon our meetings is as exciting as the meetings themselves! Over the last year, the already well-established relationships between the group, The Queen’s Nursing Institute and NHS England have further grown in strength and the first meeting of the 2016/17 round saw a whole agenda dedicated to Safer Staffing levels in the Community facilitated in partnership with The QNI. This work has been eagerly anticipated for a number of years across Community Nursing, so being part of it from the start was a significant accomplishment for the NDNN.

2016/17 has continued to see a strong recognition of the expertise within the group as other groups, agencies and organisations increasingly engage to seek opinion and advice. Members have continued to share issues, news and best practice at each meeting – all of which has helped people to share and understand the commonality in the challenges that District Nursing faces in current times. A greater emphasis has been placed upon the benefit of networking outside of the meetings, with members utilising the group for queries and advice via the NPAGNetwork Service.

The ongoing changes within the District Nursing Service nationally have been reflected within the group’s agendas over the year. Vanguards; STPs; Primary Care Home Models; Technology; Staffing; Clinical Safety and Evidence-Based Practice have all been considered in discussions, presentations and workshops across the 4 meetings.

As the members’ enthusiasm and dedication to share, learn and support each other continues; together with the re-election of David Pugh as Chair for his sixth year, we head with excitement into the 2017/18 round of meetings.

Ian Bailey
NPAG Best Value Group Facilitator

CHAIRS VIEW

Thank you again for providing me with this opportunity to reflect and comment on the year as chair of the National District Nurses Network. It certainly has been a busy year on a number of levels and my summary at the end of the year is that even though these are challenging times, it is also heartening that the profile and importance of modern day District Nursing is being recognised.

There have been a number of articles and publications over the last year not least the Kings Fund report that have strengthened the importance of District/Community Nursing in recognising the unique role that District Nurses play in the care closer to home agenda.

As a National group we have continued to develop and it is has been great that we continue to have some core members who have been able to retain their membership, whilst at the same time meeting new members who have brought a different positive dynamic to the group

Again I would like to thank Crystal Oldman, Chief Executive of the Queens Nursing Institute and Kath Evans, Community Nurse Lead, NHS England for their on-going support and collaborative approach, I believe that our professional relationship has continued to grow and develop over the last few years, and this can only be a positive thing for District Nursing at a National level.

Finally, thank you to Ian Bailey the group facilitator for all his hard working in keeping the group on track, and for his support of my role as chair.
It is only now 2 weeks before our 1st meeting of our new round of meetings and I look forward to seeing both old and new members in Birmingham on June 13th.

Many thanks

David Pugh, Team Manager - Community Nursing, Bristol Community Health

**MEETING 1 – 5TH JULY 2016 IN BIRMINGHAM**

The 2016-17 round of meetings had a powerful start, with the group being consulted with by The Queen’s Nursing Institute for their opinions to feed into the newly forming Safer Caseload Management Improvement Resource to be published by NHS Improvement in 2017. The diverse challenges of District Nursing were clearly recognised and articulated. The group’s excitement to support this work; together with the eager anticipation of its publication ensured that the year was off to an enthusiastic start!

The group’s energy continued into the first Members News & Views Section of this year; albeit with a somewhat negative feel. Ongoing issues with challenging recruitment, increasing vacancies and a background of restructure for a number of members’ Organisations set the focus for what was bound to be the ‘hot topics’ for discussion in 2016-17.

**MEETING 2 – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016 IN LONDON**

This meeting was only two weeks after the publication of The King’s Fund report into “Understanding Quality in District Nursing Services”, so was the focus of attention and discussion stimulated by Crystal Oldman’s (The Queen’s Nursing Institute) presentation.

Following up on the challenges that the above paper had highlighted, Kath Evans (NHS England) introduced ‘Leading Change, Adding Value’ to the group – “a way of positioning nursing, midwifery and care staff as leaders both individually and collectively, in designing the future and using their influence to manage the challenges of today”. In addition, Kath presented national statistics regarding woundcare demand and cost as an introduction to an emerging workstream from NHS England: RightCare Economic Evaluation. This will see the production of a number of products designed to improve woundcare and reduce demand across the country. This was received well by the group and led nicely into securing further partnership working between the NDNN and the Royal College of Nursing’s District Nursing Forum represented, at this meeting, by Sue Rayment.

The Members News & Views Section of this meeting was heavily weighted towards how Organisations were looking to support retention and morale of their staff as they continued to work in challenging times due to restructuring, increased vacancy levels and recruitment challenges. Some great examples of innovative approaches were shared with the group, including the development of a staff choir and free gym access in Norfolk Community Health & Care NHS Trust.

**MEETING 3 – 13TH DECEMBER 2016 IN MANCHESTER**

Following on from the woundcare theme introduced at the last meeting, this one opened with a fantastic presentation by Helen Boit (Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) showcasing how, through greater collaboration, they had seen an incredible improvement in Pressure Ulcer care; with a reduction of 70% in occurrence within 12 months.

The second presentation at this meeting was from Dr Anna Charles (The King’s Fund), author of the report: “Understanding Quality in District Nursing Services” that was introduced at the last meeting. Three months after publication, Dr Charles presented the early feedback from the report as well as taking further comments from the group to use in addition. Relationships between the NDNN and The King’s Fund continue to strengthen with further joint work being planned.

The Members News & Views section continues to highlight challenges in terms of Organisations’ financial situations ‘slowing down’ the ability to recruit to vacancies; compounded by the fact that more experienced
staff are leaving employment. More positively, there were a growing number of members describing confident starts to rolling-out mobile working solutions.

**MEETING 4 – 14TH MARCH 2017 IN LONDON**

The final meeting of 2016-17 started with a fantastic demonstration of how collaboration can improve patient outcomes via a presentation from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, showcasing their Primary Care Home Model. By District Nurses working in partnership with General Practice Nurses, GPs, Social Services and Voluntary Services, patients were reaping the rewards through better patient outcomes and reduced isolation.

The second presentation, by The QNI, showed how challenges and opportunities for the education of General Practice Nurses is similar to that of District Nurses. Student preconceptions of placements in Community and General Practice are still ‘far from the reality’ in terms of workload, autonomy and complexity of patients. There were however some innovative educational initiatives revealed, including universities using ‘mock patient houses’ to provide more realistic learning experiences for District Nursing students.

NHS England revisited the focus on woundcare that they opened to the group in the second meeting. Work has continued to develop a new CQuIN to be implemented in 2017-18. The group shared their experience and knowledge of woundcare data to challenge some of the underlying assumptions; providing valuable and constructive feedback to enhance the development of this work further.

This timing of this meeting could not have been more appropriate as it was held on the same day as NHS Improvement published the draft Improvement Resource for the District Nursing Service – 8 months after first consultation with the NDNN in meeting 1 of this year. The final meeting of the year was formally closed with the re-election of David Pugh as Chair of the group for the next year.

**FUTURE PLANS FOR 2017-18**

The following year for the group is exciting as there remains a great enthusiasm to join and share challenges being faced within District Nursing. Meetings continue to be planned on a quarterly basis, attracting expert speakers who inform the group of current issues.

The group continues to have the commitment of support from The QNI, NHS England, The Department of Health and others.

Planning for the 2017-18 round is well underway with presentations from Professor Mark Radford, Director of Nursing - Improvement for NHS Improvement and Jane Cummings, Chief Nursing Officer in the pipeline. The June meeting will also see members discuss the implementation of the sepsis guidelines within the community.

In addition, each meeting will now have a presentation from a member organisation showcasing Best Practice relating to a current topic or issue across District Nursing. This new feature will ensure that members have a new, additional, way of supporting each as they face the challenges within the NHS.

Meeting dates have been set for:

- 13th June 2017, Birmingham
- 12th September 2017, London
- 12th December, 2017, Manchester
- 13th March 2018, London
NPAG DEVELOPMENTS

CPD Certification
The NPAG is a member of the CPD Certification Service. The National District Nurses Network has received CPD approval for 2017-18.

CPD Certification is a formal recognition of the contribution that membership of the National District Nurses Network makes to members’ continued professional/personal development.

At the end of the annual round of meetings, members will receive certificates of attendance for all meetings attended during the year to evidence the contribution made as part of lifelong learning.

NPAGNetwork
The NPAGNetwork provides the facility for members to ask questions of any individuals, group or groups within the overall NPAG membership. Questions can be sent to the NPAGNetwork Coordinator who disseminates them across the NPAG membership. Responses are collated and returned to the originator and others who declare an interest in the question asked.

NPAG Library
The NPAG Library holds presentations from NPAG best value groups and conferences, together with policy and other documents sent in by members. Access to these items is via the NPAGNetwork Coordinator.

NPAG Website
The NPAG website includes a private members Area for each of the NPAG BVGs. Through these sites, BVG members can access and download meeting agendas, minutes, presentations and survey forms. The areas are password protected.

MEMBERS REFERRAL SCHEME AND DISCOUNTS

Members Referral Fee – Introduce a friend and get 1 meeting for free.

A member referral resulting in another Trust / Organisation registering for full membership of the same group will result in the referring member qualifying for a one meeting discount*

The discount applies to the full membership fee only (not applicable to the 2nd member rate). The discount will be applied once, at the start of the current meeting round. Mid round membership referral discounts will be processed at the start of the following year’s membership round.

Multiple referrals will result in multiple discounts up to four referrals per meeting round.

*Equivalent to £132.50.

Second Club Membership - A 20% discount will be applied when an existing NPAG member joins an additional Group. This does not apply to the £245 second member rate.

Introducing our Try Before You Buy option. Simply attend the first meeting of a group’s new round, see what it’s all about and if you decide it’s not for you walk away commitment free*.

*Try before you buy option is available to new members only. New members must inform NPAG in writing that they wish to ‘try before they buy’ prior to first meeting attendance. If the new member continues membership beyond the first meeting then the full group membership fee applies.
NPAG Benchmarking & Best Value Groups

The NPAG organises and facilitates a national network of Best Value Groups that enables members to share experience, identify good practice; innovation and information to assist individual managers develop their own service improvement action plans.

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For further information on the NPAG and our future activities, please contact Marie Cherry, Gemma Aitchison or Victoria Combes by telephone on 01245 544 600, or by e-mail on:

marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk
gemma.aitchison@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

Some Group Testimonials…

“I have found NPAG provides me the essential networking and face to face contact, with my peers and learned professionals, to assist me with keeping up to date with new all aspects of my work. It provides a support network where you can share your challenges in confidence, in order to gain support and appreciate the latest initiatives to increase efficiency and productivity. Time well invested for any busy Healthcare Estates professional.”

Assistant Director of Estates, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, member of the Estates South BVG 2016

“Membership of the NPAG Clinical Engineering Group provides an ideal platform of shared learning, from a network of experienced & knowledgeable Members, whilst also creating the opportunity to receive the very latest on information and innovation in today’s Medical Device market. This can prove to be an invaluable Asset in meeting the current challenges of a modern day Clinical/Medical Engineering department.”

Workshop Manager, Christie NHS Trust, member of the Clinical Engineering North BVG 2016

‘I think this year was very productive. It was a great learning experience and we made real progress especially with our changes to the ERIC reporting being accepted by HSCIC and our ongoing work with the EU to develop a healthcare waste qualification. I also had a good time at the last conference – very interesting learning from other countries about how they manage waste. It certainly gives some perspective to us.”

Sustainability Manager, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust member of the Waste Management BVG 2016
Available to all members of NPAG Benchmarking and Best Value Groups, and individual subscribers, the NPAG Network provides the facility for members to ask questions of any individuals, group or groups within the overall NPAG membership.

The response to questions raised has been excellent. The NPAG Network provides a managed forum for colleagues to share information - saving time and money in not re-inventing the wheel!

Questions raised in the past month have included the following topics:

- Job descriptions and banding
- Staff parking charges
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging
- Disposal of ionisation smoke heads
- HFSS food removal
- Reporting pressure ulcers
- DaVinchi Robot use
- Pathology waste policy
- Pool cars
- Decontamination of portable medical equipment
- Use of latex gloves

Thank you all who have responded!

For full details of how to use the NPAG Network, please contact the NPAG team on 01245 544600 or email: npagnetwork@npag.east.amb.nhs.uk

**Forthcoming NPAG Events**

Please visit [www.npag.org.uk](http://www.npag.org.uk) for all our current course, workshops, training & BVG meetings.

Phone: 01245 544600 / email gemma.aitchison@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk, marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk or victoria.combes@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk

**12th September 2017** - Clinical Engineering Conference, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Contact Gemma for info


Contact Marie for info

**Autumn 2017** – Occupational Health Nursing Training Workshops

Contact Gemma for info

**Putting the Patient First – Customer Care and Communication Skills in the NHS Training (On-Site Workshop)**

Contact Marie for info

**Equality & Diversity Onsite Training Workshops**

Contact Marie for info

**14th March 2018** – Theatres and Decontamination Conference, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Contact Gemma for info
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL DISTRICT NURSES NETWORK 2017-18

ORGANISATION

ADDRESS

PHONE NO. ______________________ FAX NO. ______________________

Member 1 for a £530 fee (4 meetings)  Member 2 for an additional £245

NAME ______________________

POSITION ______________________

EMAIL ______________________

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (Dietary/Access)

Reservations
Please send completed booking form to:
(Photocopies acceptable)
National Performance Advisory Group
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Hospital Approach
Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex
CM1 7WS
Tel: 01245 544600
Email: marie.cherry@npag.eastamb.nhs.uk
www.npag.org.uk

Invoicing
If the invoice address is different from that above please enter address below

REGISTRATION CONDITIONS:
A VAT invoice will be issued. VAT Registration No. 654 9195 01. VAT applies to any NHS organisation outside England and to any non-NHS organisation.
Payment is due on receipt of invoice. DO NOT send payment in advance of receipt of invoice. When invoice is received, payment should be made to ‘East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust.’
ALL cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations received within 14 days of receipt of the registration form will receive a full refund. After this date refunds cannot be made. A substitute is acceptable. NPAG cannot be held responsible for any travel expenses or accommodation costs in the event of a cancellation or postponement of a meeting, workshop or an event.
A 20% discount will be applied when an existing NPAG member joins an additional Group. This does not apply to the £245 second member rate.
I confirm that I have read and accept the above REGISTRATION CONDITIONS and would like to register as a member of the ‘NATIONAL DISTRICT NURSES NETWORK 2017-18’. Please invoice me for payment.

Authorisation Signature …………………………. Your Order Number……………………………..

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