

QNI News



The Queen's
Nursing Institute

The newsletter of the Queen's Nursing Institute

Spring 2007

Nursing leaders and others welcome revival of the title 'Queen's Nurse'

QNI revives title after absence of 40 years

Queen's Nurses



committed to the community

The Queen's Nursing Institute announced the revival of the title 'Queen's Nurse' at a press conference hosted at the King's Fund.

The title of Queen's Nurse will place a premium on personalised nursing care, as well as good communication with, and respect for, patients and clients, identified through patient feedback on the nurse. Thus the award of the title will promote the best of relationships between those providing and those receiving care in their homes and communities.

In welcoming the re-instatement of the title, Claire Rayner, President of the Patients Association, veteran broadcaster, journalist and ex-nurse said: "This is a step forward for District, School and practice nurses and all others who work outside the hospital setting. As an ageing person myself it is reassuring to know that good nursing is available to me and others like me who want to remain in our own homes.

A hearty welcome to the Queen's Nurse."

The move has the support of the three Chief Nursing Officers for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Christine Beasley, Chief Nursing Officer for England, said: "The QNI is an important organisation for nurses in the community and I welcome the leadership and vision they are showing the profession. The use of a Queen's Nursing Award to recognise a high level of commitment to improving care in the community could play a useful role in boosting esteem and visibility amongst nurses in the community."

In order to be awarded the title a nurse must have completed a minimum of three years practice in a community setting and must submit information to the Institute including a CV and personal statement, structured reflection on their practice, and evidence of innovation and leadership, supported by patient, manager and peer feedback forms.

We were able to re-instate the title thanks to a generous gift from the will of Miss Margaret Heyes.

For full details of the eligibility criteria visit www.qni.org.uk

Director's column

This is a very significant year for the Queen's Nursing Institute, marking 120 years since Queen Victoria set up the original fund to train community nurses. The QNI no longer trains nurses directly, but we continue to help today's community nurses fulfil the original aim of the Institute: to improve the care of people at home.

Two specific things make this year special for me. One is that we still have, as a Trustee on the Board of the Institute, William Rathbone, the great great grandson of the Liverpool merchant and philanthropist who was instrumental in setting up the QNI. This is a very valuable link with the original purpose and values of the Institute, in a world full of so much change and so many short-lived organisations.

The other great pleasure of this year is our re-introduction of the title of 'Queen's Nurse', forty years after it was last awarded to nurses who trained at the Institute. The title will now be awarded to community nurses from all specialisms who meet a set of criteria based on the original requirements of Queen's Nurses, and the expectations of a modern community nurse. Experience, commitment, innovation, excellent relations with patients and leadership to other nurses are key requirements for applicants. Importantly, the award of the title to those who meet the criteria; is not the end of the process. It is the beginning of participation in professional learning sets, with the aim of continuous improvement in practice. The title may be traditional, but the role it supports is that of today's active, committed professional, fully engaged in developmental and leadership roles.

This is a very exciting time for the QNI, and I look forward to telling you about the first cohort of new Queen's Nurses later in the year.

Rosemary Cook

in brief

QNI fellow awarded MBE

The QNI was delighted to learn that Professor Ami David, Fellow of the QNI since 2001 was awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours list. Congratulations Ami!

NGS publishes new gardens guide

The National Gardens Scheme has launched its latest 'Yellow Book' providing information on gardens open to the public in England and Wales. The NGS is a long standing and generous supporter of the QNI and a proportion of funds raised through garden openings go to support our work. For a copy of this years 'Yellow Book' go to www.ngs.org.uk or call 01483 211535

QNI e-Forum launched

The QNI Community Nursing e-Forum has been launched in response to issues raised by nurses during the consultation that led to the publication of the Institute's Vision and Values report.

The forum will provide the opportunity for community nurses, managers and educators to inform the QNI on specific issues relating to national vision and strategy for community nursing.

As champion and supporter of community nurses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the QNI engages with policy-makers in government departments and national stakeholder groups. The launch of the e-Forum will ensure that the expertise of community nurses is an integral part of national decision-making on relevant policy.

For further information visit www.qni.org.uk/eforum.htm

News

QNI 120th anniversary conference - Vision and Values one year on

One year on from the publication of Vision and Values, and to mark our 120th anniversary, we are hosting a conference to examine and debate the latest developments to impact on the care patients receive in their homes and communities. Speakers will set the scene for the new environment of primary care and open a debate on the challenge for community nursing in both commissioning and providing roles. This debate will be illustrated and informed by contributors who have already taken up the challenge of improving services by taking innovative, entrepreneurial and technological approaches to improving the health of their own populations.

Preparing community nurses for the challenges ahead becomes the focus for the afternoon session as the debate shifts to take a look at the future from an educational perspective. A panel comprised of members from the world of higher education, the private sector and nursing organisations, chaired by the QNI Chair of Community Nursing at the University of Manchester, Professor Karen Luker, will debate the future of the Specialist Practitioner qualification within the broad context of preparing the community nurses of the future. Further information and a booking form can be found on the Profile Productions website at www.profileproductions.co.uk/events.php

Tips on financial management for community nurses from the QNI

We are busy working on a new initiative to assist community nurses in taking care of their personal finances. We are planning to make a CD-ROM available, without charge to community nurses, later this spring. More details will be available on our website in due course. In the meantime if you would like to secure your copy of the CD-ROM, please email your name, address, daytime telephone number and job title/qualification to moneymangement@qni.org.uk and, subject to demand, you will receive a copy as soon as it becomes available.

91 nurses receive financial assistance in 2006

End-of-year figures show that in 2006, the Queen's Nursing Institute was able to provide financial help to 91 Community Nurses in need. In all, grants totalling over £69,200 were awarded. Many of our grants go to our older Queen's and District nurses who receive regular quarterly payments to help them with their everyday living expenses where their pensions and welfare benefits are not sufficient to provide an adequate standard of living. In other cases, nurses apply to us to help them purchase one off items, often household items that have broken or worn out such as central heating boilers, carpets and furniture. Some older community nurses living in residential homes only receive minimal state benefits and are helped by the QNI. We can, for example, help pay for the installation of private telephone lines in their rooms to help maintain contact with their families, or help pay for little extras such as hairdressing. We have also helped nurses who cannot work through illness, injury or accident by buying specialist equipment such as rising chairs, electronic beds and powered wheelchairs to help make their lives easier and more comfortable.

If you know of a community nurse who is in financial need through age, illness, injury or change in circumstances, please let them know about QNI Financial Assistance for Community Nurses. Please contact Joanne Moorby, Welfare Administrator on telephone 020 7549 1405.

Awards update

In each issue of QNI news we will update you with the progress being made by one of the many projects supported by the QNI. This month we report on **Casefinder, a nurse - volunteer partnership finding cases of chronic disease in Belfast.**

Casefinder won one of the QNI's 2006 Innovation and Best Practice Awards - cash grants of up to £7,500 plus a year-long programme of professional development.

The scheme which has seen nurses and lay health workers visit pubs, workplaces and community centres has been hailed as a success for identifying chronic disease symptoms in the community.

Originally planned to run from September until December 2006 Casefinder has been so successful that it is now being rolled out to more venues.

Casefinder was launched by Belfast District Nurses in partnership with the East Belfast Community Health Information Project (EBCHIP).

The project has recruited and trained lay health workers locally to work alongside District Nursing staff using a specially designed Health Screening Tool to identify people at risk of serious illness.

Nurses and EBCHIP volunteers have already identified various potential problems such as previously undiagnosed cases of diabetes and high blood pressure - helping to identify chronic disease symptoms before a problem becomes a crisis. The Casefinder project offers local people:

- An on-the-spot nursing assessment by a District Nurse
- Individual and specific health advice
- A comprehensive health information pack
- Onward referral where appropriate.



Rosemary Cook and Scott McAusland of the QNI recently visited the project and saw the nurses and volunteers in action offering health checks at east Belfast's Constitutional Club.

Hailing the success of the project so far, Rosemary said: "We are delighted with the progress of this very exciting project which demonstrates one of the key roles of community nurses: going out into the community to meet local need. The collaboration between health professionals and lay workers from within the community is undoubtedly one of the main reasons for the success of this project."

Kay Kane, Manager for District Nursing in South & East Trust explained: "By helping the Lay Health Workers to extend their range of skills, and increasing public accessibility to health services, District Nurses are building upon their public health expertise."

The QNI wishes the team in Belfast all the best in continuing to offer this ground-breaking service both with and for their local community.

in brief

New phone numbers at the Institute

**Anne Pearson,
Practice Development
Manager**

020 7549 1409

**Cathie Brennan,
Senior Administrator**

020 7549 1410

**Fred Adams,
Fundraising Manager**

020 7549 1403

**Gerry Isherwood,
Finance manager**

020 7549 1404

**Joanne Moorby,
Welfare Officer**

020 7549 1405

**Nicky Wilson,
Practice Development Officer**

020 7549 1408

**Rosemary Cook,
Director**

020 7549 1406

**Scott McAusland,
Communications Manager**

020 7549 1407

QNI Reception

020 7549 1400

Applications sought for 2007 Developing Practice Awards

As one door closes another one opens. Although the closing date for the Innovation and Best Practice Awards has passed we are now seeking applications for the 2007 Developing Practice Awards. The Awards, which offer funding up to £2,500, are designed to help community nurses, midwives health visitors, district nurses and CPN's work innovatively to improve care and reduce inequalities.

For further information visit www.qni.org.uk/awards.htm or call Anne Pearson on 020 7549 1409.

Who's who at the QNI

Anne Pearson - Practice Development Manager



Anne Pearson has been with the QNI since 2004 and has a background in acute and community nursing. Since 1990 she has worked in the voluntary sector in a variety of information and education roles and has led on the setting up of new services. Anne's role of Practice Development Manager at the QNI entails responsibility for the management of all awards funding and supporting the award winners through the professional development programme. She also supports the Director in the growing professional and policy work of the QNI. When she's not busy reading or drinking cappuccino, Anne likes nothing better than walking long distance footpaths pretending she can map read.

Fred Adams, Fundraising Manager

Fred joined the QNI as Fundraising Manager in May 2004 from the mental health charity Together, having previously worked as a Trust Fundraiser at Parkinson's Disease Society and Care International. He is the main contact at the QNI for all fundraising related initiatives and enquiries. Fred graduated from Nottingham Trent Polytechnic in 1990 with a BA (Hons) in Modern European Studies. Fred enjoys nothing more than the challenge of a lengthy bicycle trek in some of Europe's more mountainous and remote regions. His cycling CV includes the Outer Hebrides, the Pyrenees, the Massif Central, the Picos de Europa and Andalucia and has even taken him as far afield as Cuba.



The Queen's Nursing Institute champions and supports community nurses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We promote best practice and innovation in primary care by providing professional and financial assistance for community nursing projects, and by influencing health policy and practice.

By our commitment to welfare, we help maintain the independence and dignity of community nurses in need.

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The Queen's Nursing Institute is a registered charity (number 213128)

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