

## Press Release

20 April 2018

# QNI CNEN Member Leads Trailblazer to Develop DN Apprenticeship Standard

At The QNI's last Community Nurse Executive Network (CNEN) member's meeting in November 2017 Steph Lawrence, Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust led a session on 'Apprenticeship standards – the way forward for the District Nurse Qualification.'

Many CNEN members signed up to join the group developing an Apprenticeship Standard for the role of Specialist Practitioner District Nurse, which was chaired by Steph.

We are delighted to announce that Steph's final submission to become a trailblazer to develop the district nurse apprenticeship standard has been accepted. The QNI continues to support this work going forward.

Steph said: 'The Institute for Apprenticeships have this week announced that they have agreed the submission for the development of an apprenticeship standard for the role of District Nurse.'

As the Chair of the Trailblazer group I am delighted that this decision has been reached and would like to thank the members of the group including the crucial input from The QNI and Dr Crystal Oldman CBE for their help and support in getting to this stage.

There is hard work ahead to develop the apprenticeship standard but this announcement secures the future of this crucial role. In addition the Institute have said that the development of other specialist Practitioner apprenticeships for example, practice nurse, community children's nurse will be possible under a potential hub and route model of apprenticeship development.'

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, QNI's Chief Executive commented, 'This is an historic moment for patients, families and carers in our communities. District Nursing has been recognised as a unique occupation requiring preparation for the role utilising education standards within a work-based learning programme.'

This provides a fabulous opportunity to raise the profile of the District Nursing service and the highly complex, specialist and advanced practitioner role of the District Nurse, leading a remarkable nurse-led service in the community.

Steph Lawrence has demonstrated outstanding leadership in her role as chair of the trailblazer group and I look forward to working with Steph, the employers and the education leads who have been so instrumental in this significant achievement.'

ENDS