



NEONATAL
NURSES
ASSOCIATION

"THE GREATER THE NUMBER, THE LOUDER THE VOICE"

ANNUAL REPORT | 2015-2016



The greater the number, the louder the voice.

Foreword

This annual report represents a very different year to the difficult year 14-15, which continued into this financial year 2015-2016. Membership continued to decline at a steady pace due to member retiring however there has been renewed interest in the association especially from our ANNP colleagues and we have therefore seen an overall increase in membership. I feel the viability of the NNA is now less questionable.

We hope that you will find this a comprehensive and informative report about the workings of the Neonatal Nurses Association in the last year as we have attempted to manage these challenges.

I hope the future of the NNA becomes even more sustainable as we build closer links with other organisations and corporate membership.

This is your organisation, Neonatal nurses working for a future and standards of care we can all be proud of. The NNA continues to need to recruit new members especially younger nurses with their vision and enthusiasm.

“The greater the number the louder the voice.”



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Introduction

The Neonatal Nurses Association was established nearly 40 years ago in 1977 by Beryl Chadney, a senior nurse at the Department of Health. She selected a small group of neonatal nurses from across the country, to address the inadequacies within neonatal nursing, perceived to be a contributor to a higher than average perinatal mortality rate in the UK, in comparison to other European countries.

One factor identified as a probable cause was the poor communication between specialized units to promote and share emerging developments in a specialty industry that was very much in its infancy. A national conference organized for the following year was overwhelmingly subscribed and neonatal nurses demanded more interaction amongst themselves and specialist education.

The purpose of the Neonatal Nurses Association has remained unchanged since then; a national organisation representing neonatal nurses, steered by neonatal nurses to promote neonatal nursing for the benefit of sick and preterm newborns and their families throughout the country.

The Executive Committee

According to the constitution the Executive Committee members are nominated onto the Board and serve for three years, with potential to renew for a further three years.

<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Denise Evans</i>
<i>Vice Chairperson & Welsh Rep</i>	<i>Pam Boyd</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Cath Holder</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Pam Boyd</i>
<i>Managers SIG</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Education SIG</i>	<i>Julia Petty</i>
<i>Community SIG</i>	<i>Sara Harris</i>
<i>Executive Member & Northern Ireland Rep</i>	<i>Sharon Nurse</i>
<i>Executive Member</i>	<i>Liz Crathern</i>
<i>Executive Member</i>	<i>Róisín McKeon-Carter</i>
<i>Executive Member</i>	<i>Patrick Turton</i>
<i>Executive Officer</i>	<i>Dee Beresford (until July 2015)</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>Jennifer Butler</i>
<i>Web Design</i>	<i>Kirsty de Wet</i>

This year has seen vast changes to the Executive Committee. Denise Evans is in her third year in office as chairperson, Jennifer Butler has joined in a communications role and Kirsty de Wet has joined for web design.

Dee Beresford was made redundant as our executive officer in July 15 with her role being divided up into several key roles as above.

NNA Activities

NNA Representation

As a strategy to raise the profile of the NNA the Executive Committee tried to ensure that the Association was represented at relevant conferences and events. During 2014-2015 this activity had been cutback, however this year the Association has been seen at conferences and continues to participate in national projects.

Neonatal Day in Manchester 1st April

Public Health England national Conference NEC Birmingham, (NNA Chair) Chairing the Neonatal day 21st May.

Representation at the UK committee for children and young people (UKCCYPN) 16th June and 20th October

The NNA Chair met with the new Bliss CEO 16th June

The NNA Chair represented the association on the Neonatal CRG until it was disbanded 15th July, 23rd Sept and 13th Jan

Northern Network Conference 24th September

Thames Valley & Wessex Network 29th October

North West Network 18th March

Website

The new NNA website has been developed, it can now be found at:

<http://www.nna.org.uk>

It is managed by Kirsty de Wet, and has been positively received as it is being kept much more up-to-date and there is still free access.

Facebook

The NNA Facebook page continues at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Neonatal-Nurses-Association/>

Posts are intermittently posted and although the site is slow to grow in popularity positive action has been taken against this as all of the Executive Committee now have administrator access to the page and are able to post updates.

Twitter

The NNA has a Twitter account at

UKNNA

Similarly to the Facebook page, the account is growing in popularity and updates are posted intermittently.

Group Representation of the NNA

Council of International Nurses

The Neonatal Nurses Association (NNA) maintained its membership of the wider neonatal community through its membership of COINN. For every member the NNA subscribe \$1 to COINN in order to participate in the international network. Denise Evans as chair of the NNA has regularly participated in Skype conferences with other members of the COINN executive committee. COINN have just launched a new website. COINN now has membership in fifty seven countries both as individual member and through national organisations

This year has focused on the development of position statements regarding important issues affecting Neonates around the world, increasing membership and improving the profile of the organisation.

Member associations are represented from the following countries:

South Africa

Canada

New Zealand

Australia

United Kingdom including Scotland through their own organisation

Spain

Hawaii

USA

Netherlands

Finland

Denmark

Turkey

The NNA Chair has taken part in COINN Skypes on 16th July, 22nd October, 3rd December, 20th January, 25th February and 16th March.

Conference 2015

NNA CONFERENCE 2015 FEEDBACK, HELD AT WAKEFIELD, WEST YORKSHIRE

The NNA re-launched their branding early last year and in November 2015 held their first conference. The executive discussed the 'journey' experienced by babies, families & staff within the neonatal speciality so elected to use this concept as the basis for the conference.

Denise Evans, NNA chair, opened the conference and welcomed the 90 multi-disciplinary delegates. There was an air of expectation in the conference room and a hunger for up-to-date information and sharing of various innovative practices.

Dr Liz Crathern presented her research on fatherhood in NICU which started a great discussion with insight into a father's 'journey' when their baby is born preterm or is ill. These fathers don't just have the worry of their partners but also their children.

ANNP Carol Hudsons revised with us the importance of stabilisation in the delivery suite - the golden hour in a Neonatal unit.

Lead Transport Nurse Patrick Turton continued our 'journey' by discussing some of the experiences of transport nurses and the challenges they face in communicating with the referral and receiving units including the anxious parents.

ANNP Róisín McKeon-Carter entertained the delegates discussing the 'journey' for neonatal nurses including ancillary staff, newly qualified staff nurses through QIS, CCN, ANNP to consultant neonatal nurse. She directed all present to become familiar with the Neonatal Toolkit for staffing neonatal units and discussed the hybrid nature of the ANNP role which transcends nursing to work on medical rotas in what was 'historically' a doctors role.

She emphasized the importance of role modelling as a neonatal nurse and is currently the Clinical Director for a tertiary NICU.

Coffee break afforded the delegates the opportunity to network and to review the poster presentations. The buzz of discussion in the conference hall suggested that those present were excited for the opportunity to meet together with other neonatal nurses.

ANNP Glenys Connolly shared her clinical expertise by presenting strategies for respiratory management for the neonate. She described the physiology and pathology of the respiratory system which enables us to have a clearer understanding and thereby enhancing our knowledge.

Dr Simon Clark challenged the delegates to think of behaviours on ward rounds and asked us to contemplate the emotions experienced by families.

Jo Kirby & Clare Wasey shared some fabulous innovative practice. The FAB project was borne out of a need to support families admitted to NICU & TC in Plymouth. FAB supports families including signposting to various services and also supports them emotionally through their difficult neonatal 'journey'. Sr Sarah Harris continued our conference 'journey' outlining the benefits to those neonatal units who are supported by an outreach service. This enables an early and safe discharge home which facilitates attachment and the family uniting sooner. After lunch the delegates heard the poignant story of a parent who experienced the neonatal service. Mrs Kat Wilkinson, mum to two prems, shared her experiences of her baby being born out of area and the challenges that presented for her family.

Dr Liz McKechnie introduced the delegates to a new 'journey' for families admitted to neonatal units, that is 'Family integrated care' which sounds perfect for enabling families to take ownership of their baby's care which will enhance attachment.

The final speaker, Mrs Alex Mancini presented the palliative care framework and discussed the 'journey' experienced by staff and families when a baby is in end of life care including requests by parents to donate their baby's organs.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE NNA CONFERENCE FOR 2015 SUCH A SUCCESS!!
WE CAN'T WAIT FOR 2016!

Róisín McKeon-Carter, Executive Member

Northern Ireland Report

The group is going from strength to strength with 3 meetings per year held in different neonatal units. Each unit hosts the meeting, arranges for speakers and provides a light supper. It's a great opportunity to network with other neonatal nurses and learn more about what's happening around the province.

We held our annual conference in November 2015 and had a wide range of topics presented by high calibre speakers who inspired delegates in so many ways. There was a poster presentation award sponsored by Tinylife and we managed to have a first and second prize last year due to their generosity.

We have a NNA representative on the NI Neonatal Network (Colm Darby) and our current Chair, Sharon Nurse also sits on this committee which is forging ahead with lots of projects such as auditing temperatures of newborns admitted to NICU, increasing breastfeeding rates, infection prevention and lots of others.

Our next conference will be in April and we look forward to our colleagues from mainland UK coming over to discover what our neonatal nurses are up to and how we as a group are determining the future of the NNA in Northern Ireland

Sharon Nurse, Northern Ireland Rep

Welsh Report

Bliss launched their Welsh report in Cardiff in July 2016. This highlighted the shortage of neonatal nurses in Wales, and the pressure neonatal units are under to work in line with national standards.

Recruitment and retention of staff is still a big issue, again highlighted in the Bliss report that 8 out of 10 units did not have enough nurses to staff all of their cots (Bliss Wales report 2016).

With 11 Neonatal units across Wales, nurses are continuing to care in challenging circumstances for families and their babies.

Pam Boyd, Vice Chairperson & Welsh Rep

MBRRACE

I was fortunate to represent the NNA at the MBRRACE topic expert group in Birmingham in July, and hope to continue representing the NNA with MBRRACE. This also offers a good opportunity to network with other groups involved in neonatal care, as well as the NNA contributing to the topic group.

Pam Boyd, Vice Chairperson & Welsh Rep

Special Interest Groups

Managers

Managers SIG chair is currently vacant, therefore activities of this group continue to be suspended.

Community

Neonatal outreach is fast becoming an integral part of many neonatal services to support patient flow and family's preparation for home. Within the East of England ODN the units have been working in partnership on a project to develop guidelines for an equitable service across the region, and we have the vision for this across the country. The project is fully supported by the NNA and also Bliss.

Documents that have been produced are related to NGTube feeding at home which consists of a parent leaflet, risk assessment and parent competency pack. These are all available on the Bliss website in the professionals best practice tab. Work is almost complete on discharge guidelines for the non-complex baby into outreach care.

Sara Harris Community SIG lead

Education / Research

Review of two chapters (J.Petty) of 2016 Sands' *Pregnancy Loss and the Death of a Baby: Guidelines for professionals'* with pending NNA endorsement confirmed and due for September 2016.

NNA collective response and comments summary (J.Petty) submitted to Neal Marlow for the proposed study '*Population, Intervention, Comparator and Outcomes (PICO) template'* for research topic submission to NIHR, on topic *Family Integrated Care*.

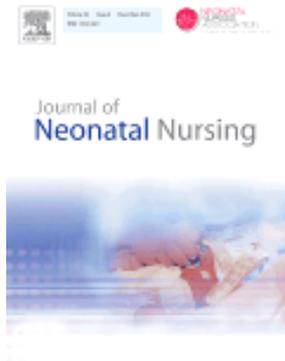
NNA representation as faculty member (J.Petty) on the BAPM multi-disciplinary Research Training day held at the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health London in October 2015. This is to be held again in October 2016.

Communications with the Education and Research Special Interest group has resumed with a revised contact list and a meeting has been organised for October 2016. Booking a suitable venue has proven to be a challenge this year and finally one was found thanks to Jo Cookson in Walsall.

Education section JNN: some high quality papers have been accepted published on education themes. Communication continues on a regular basis to Education / Research group members for papers and other important items of news.

Julia Petty, Education SIG

Journal of Neonatal Nursing



The Journal of Neonatal Nursing is the official journal of the Neonatal Association and is not only the principle membership benefit for the Association, but also connects the Association with its members.

The journal aims to targeting neonatal nurses in this country and overseas. It is intended to be a professional journal that provides members with educational papers, news and information about what is happening in the neonatal world.

Elsevier are long standing publishers of the Journal of Neonatal Nursing. They are able to support the journal through a strong and established infrastructure for the publication of journals. This includes an efficient electronic proofing and correction system, as well as allowing the journal to be part of a key literature platform, Science Direct. An electronic reviewing system is planned for next year.

The journal continues to display a number of different sections. These include the education section, news items, parents' reflections and letters from Australia and Africa. Longer papers feature in the latter pages and the JnN continues to attract a steady flow of submitted papers on a wide variety of topics from authors in the UK and increasingly globally. A further special edition on palliative care has been advertised and is ongoing, but the type and quality needed for this special edition may not be adequate.

Membership of the editorial board continues to evolve in order to maintain an active working group who contribute positively to the journal.

Dee Beresford, Editor

Finance Report

Following our re-launch in September 2015 we have had a steady rise in membership and together with a successful conference in November 2015 we have maintained a stable financial situation. Dee's redundancy payments reflect an unchanged balance which should be rectified in the next financial year. All efforts to keep costs down are being taken by the executive but representation for all our members mean more outgoings for travel for the executive. Likewise we have invested in a new website and have retained that expertise for the future. Lapsed members continue to come back albeit slowly and the executive committee continues to strive to recruit new members at conferences etc. with increasing numbers of our older members retiring.

The Direct debit payment scheme continues to be popular and all new members are encouraged to pay by this method, forms are sent out to existing members with their renewals and some members opt for bank transfer payments.

A full financial breakdown can be obtained from admin@nna.org.uk.

INCOME	14-15	15-16	OUTGOINGS	14-15	15-16
TOTALS	29,192	89,649.20		46,310	61,364.

Key Achievements for 2015-2016

Re-launch of the Neonatal Nurses Association

Organised a new logo, the website, banners and leaflets

Co-ordinated a national database of contacts

Became conduit for communication with national organisations NDAU / NNAP / BAPM

Represented neonatal nurses on national strategy groups MBRRACE

Organised sponsorship of poster presentation at the Annual Conference and the Nurse of the Year Award

COINN achievements

Meeting with new CEO of Bliss

Representing neonatal nursing on Neonatal CRG / Term Baby Project / Transitional Care Project / HRG Pricing Group / UKCCYPN

Coordinated responses to national work e.g. MBRRACE

Set up a Twitter account

Work with global engagement institute Helping Babies Breathe in developing countries project

Spoke at national conferences Quality Improvement at NNAP Developing National Standards for QIS

Attended Bliss baby report launch in parliament

Key Objectives for 2016-2017

Continue to increase our membership

Continue to undertake work to improve the association's profile

Maintain the NNA presence in meetings and groups determining the future of neonatal services

Host another successful national conference

Concluding Remarks

This has been another difficult year for the association however we have improved our profile and increased membership. Other organizations have renewed respect for our ability to represent the Neonatal Nurse.

The executive are optimistic about the future of the association.