

**Welcome to the 11th edition of the
Strengthening the Commitment Northern Ireland Action Plan Communiqué**

Background

Strengthening the Commitment: The Report of the UK Modernising Learning Disabilities Nursing Review, was released in April 2012. Since then a Northern Ireland Action Plan has been developed to take forward its recommendations. The NI Action Plan is available at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/learning-disabilities-action-plan>



NI Regional Collaborative

The Northern Ireland Regional Collaborative (The Collaborative) is Co-Chaired by Professor Owen Barr, Professor of Nursing and Intellectual Disabilities, Ulster University and Ms. Eileen McEneaney, Executive Director of Nursing (EDoN) in the NHSCT. Membership of the Collaborative can be viewed on the NIPEC web page <https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/>



The RNLD Professional Development Forum (PDF)

The Forum held its first meeting of 2019 on the 26th March in Clady Villa, Clinical Education Centre, RNLDs from across a range of services attended.

Rodney Morton, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), opened the Forum with an address on behalf of Charlotte McArdle, CNO and used the occasion to announce the imminent DoH review of learning disabilities nursing. The Review will be led by Siobhan Rogan, Intellectual Disability and CAMHS Manager, SHSCT who has taken up the seconded post of Nursing Lead for Transformation on behalf of the DoH.



The main theme of the Forum meeting was delegation and focused on the *Deciding to Delegate: A decision support Framework for Nursing* and Midwifery document. Angela Reed, Senior Professional Officer, NIPEC provided an overview of the Delegation Framework. Following the presentation participants engaged in group work discussing scenarios using the decision support tool as to whether a nursing task could or should be delegated. Some lively discussion and debate took place regarding the professional issues of accountability, autonomous nursing practice, nursing care planning and evidencing the decision making process.



*Participants attending the PDF
Topic: Deciding to Delegate*

The session ended with a panel discussion on the implementation of the Delegation Framework, with PDF members stating they eagerly await the outcome of the Delegation Framework currently being co-produced with NIPEC and the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC).

The presentation and the Delegation Framework can be accessed on the NIPEC web site <https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/stc-rnld-forum/>

Finally Donna Morgan, Chair of the PDF provided a brief summary on the recent evaluation of the Forum which highlighted that the meetings were viewed as an excellent resource and provided positive support and networking opportunities for RNLD's. Respondents were keen to explore more practice based and educational topics at future events. The full report can be accessed via <https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/stc-rnld-forum/>

A second PDF was held on the 3rd July 2019 in the Jordanstown Campus Ulster University on the topic – Dysphagia. Please access presentation via attached link <https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/stc-docs/>

NI Collaborative Action Plan for 2018-19

Two workshops took place in May 2019 to address the NI Collaborative Action Plan priorities for 2018-19 which focused on the theme: Strengthening Capability and specifically;

- *“that there will be a targeted drive to ensure that Registered Nurses (Learning Disabilities) are adequately prepared, equipped and supported in the management of violence and aggression and current risk assessment and management processes,”*
- *“ensure effective responses to safeguarding incidents children and adults.”*



Presenters, facilitators and participants at Workshop One in Omagh: Supporting People who are Experiencing or at Risk of Behavioural Distress in Learning Disabilities Nursing.

Workshop One

The first workshop was held on the 3rd May 2019 in Omagh and focused on practitioners sharing a variety of practice related case presentations relating to the nursing and interdisciplinary care and management of people requiring specific interventions due to behaviours that challenge. There was a great response to this event with very relevant and challenging topics being presented. A total of 35 people attended.

The workshop was co-facilitated by Professor Owen Barr, alongside Lorraine Clarke, Glenda Frazer and Jacqueline Boyd from the WHSCT.

Eileen McEneaney, (EDoN) opened the workshop and encouraged participants to reflect on how they connected to the work of the NI Collaborative.

Lorraine invited participants to collectively formulate a workshop safety agreement to help facilitate the day's discussions and reflections. A Claims Concerns and Issues exercise followed which helped explore participant's views on good practice initiatives and challenges in providing a person centred service for people and their carers when managing risks and behaviours that challenge.



Case presentations and reflections were presented by RNLD's and Social Care staff from across the region. Barry Davey and Robin Stewart, from the SEHSCT, discussed challenges relating to the assessment and management of risks regarding self-injurious behaviour in young people along with the need to support family carers and members of the interdisciplinary team.

Ailish McMeel from the BHSCT and representing the RCN Learning Disability Nurses Network presented a case study relating to the nursing care of a person who only displayed challenging behaviours in social environments and settings. The outcome of this situation was the challenging behaviours were not witnessed by members of the nursing or interdisciplinary team. Ailish discussed how this affected good interdisciplinary working and patient care.

Lorraine Feeney from the WHSCT, presented on the use of a red flag flowchart in supporting people who are experiencing behavioural distress in an inpatient setting.

Rosemary Wray from the NHSCT a Service Manager in a supported living unit, presented on their risk assessment and management process for two people with complex needs relating to drugs and alcohol, forensics, personality disorder and self-injurious behaviour. Rosemary attributed the continued wellness of one resident to staff receiving the right training, taking positive risks and facilitating the resident's support networks. However she was realistic in her challenge to participants stating that in some circumstances risk behaviours continue and residential placements can and do break down.

Finally, Lisa Harris and Ronan McLaughlin from the WHSCT presented a case history detailing the care and treatment of a young person with complex learning disabilities, extensive physical health problems with violent and aggressive behaviour towards themselves and their carers. Interventions carried out by the interdisciplinary team through a holistic assessment resulted in a management plan that focused on the child’s physical triggers, the need for effective communication across services and the promotion of staff training and support.

Following the presentations and round table discussions participants were invited to deliver one message regarding their learning and/or reflection on the day and devise personal action plans to be implemented locally in practice. Professor Owen Barr closed the workshop and warmly thanked presenters, facilitators and participants for a very thought provoking event.



Presenters, facilitators and participants at Workshop 2 in Belfast : Effective Responses to Safeguarding Incidents (Children and Adult)



Workshop Two

The second workshop was held on the 23rd May 2019 in Belfast and was attended by 25 people from across hospital and community services. The workshop was facilitated by Barry Davey and Paula McIlwaine from the SEHSCT.

The purpose of this workshop was to create a learning opportunity around the roles and responsibilities of RNLD in the context of safeguarding. The workshop was opened by Professor Owen Barr and participants were invited by Paula to contribute to a Value Clarification Exercise exploring their values and beliefs on safeguarding processes.

Kelley Donnelly, Safeguarding Children’s Nurse Specialist from the SHSCT provided an overview of her role. This was followed by group work where participants considered how they would manage and respond to two safeguarding cases relating to children with learning disabilities.

Ray McCafferty a RNLD and an Adult Safeguarding Nurse Specialist from the NHSCT outlined his role and like Kelley invited participants to contribute to discussions on a case presentation relating to an adult with learning disabilities and their family carer.

Damian McAleer, Nurse Education Consultant, CEC, concluded the presentations by providing an overview of a QI project exploring nurses uptake of the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership NIASP’s Level 3 training.

Professor Owen Barr drew the workshop to a close and acknowledged the enthusiasm, passion and participation of all attendees. Professor Barr finally asked participants to pen a reflective note to themselves detailing how they will take their learning regarding safeguarding forward in practice. It is planned that these self-addressed notes will be posted back to participants in November 2019.

The presentations and a photo gallery of both workshops can be accessed via <https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/stc-photo-gallery/>

Some comments from participants who attended the workshops.

- networking opportunities
- we need to wake up
- insights into similar challenges and experiences
- informative thought provoking
- seeing the good work being carried out across the region
- Value
- excellent workshop from start to end
- putting theory into practice
- hearing different perspectives
- allowed me to think how I could use it in practice
- learning about the roles of safeguarding nurses
- variety of case presentations
- learning from each other

RCN Learning Disability Nurses Network

The RCN NI Learning Disability Nursing Network has also seen some changes. The co-chairs and lead roles have been taken up by Ailish McMeel and Barbara Tate. The network has had its first meeting of 2019 and is currently working to develop its action plan for the coming year. Network members were also busy promoting the RCN NI Nurse of the Year Awards – a fabulous opportunity to showcase and celebrate the work of RNLD across the full range of categories. The awards ceremony took place on Thursday 6th June 2019 and we are delighted to report that Siobhan Brady, Health Facilitator and Aoife Mills, Community Learning Disability Nurse from the SEHSCT won the Learning Disability Award. Their work focused on a programme to improve the health, well-being and lifestyles of people with a learning disability, Lorraine Feeney from the WHSCT was a very worthy runner up. Congratulations to all entrants



Future Nurse Future Midwife – Learning Disabilities

Following on from the Future Nurse Curriculum Development workshop on the 17th January 2019, a Northern Ireland Practice Assessment Document, (NIPAD) Learning Disabilities workshop was jointly hosted by QUB and NIPEC on the 9th May 2019. The aim of this event was to ensure that practice partners and education providers worked in partnership to ensure the NIPAD was adopted to reflect learning disabilities nursing. RNLDs from all services and across the life span, other nursing colleagues, service user/carer representatives and students came together to inform the content of the now Future Nurse NIPAD Intellectual Disabilities Nursing.

Learning Disability Professional Senate.

The Collaborative is pleased to report that Siobhan Rogan from the SHSCT/DoH has secured representation to the Professional Senate and will advocate and promote the interests of NI learning disabilities nurses at their meetings and events.



For further information please contact

frances.cannon@nipec.hscni.net or eilish.boyle@nipec.hscni.net