

Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities – Expert Reference Group

(RNLD ERG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

December 2022

BACKGROUND

In 2014 the in response to the Strengthening the Commitment - NI Action Plan the NI Collaborative was established to take forward the actions from the NI Action Plan. In 2019 the CNOs across the UK noted their intention to stand down the four countries Strengthening the Commitment groups. This coincided with the Department of Health (DOH) decision to undertake a review of the role of registered nurses; learning disabilities workforce in Northern Ireland. By agreement with the CNO the recommendations from the review will inform the activity of the Collaborative going forward.

The 31st January 2020 marked the start of the pandemic. During the pandemic meetings and activity of the Collaborative was paused at the request of the HSC due to system pressures, scheduled meetings were impacted significantly with only two catch up-meetings during this time.

The DOH is now concluding the review of the role of the Registered Nurses Learning Disabilities workforce in Northern Ireland (pending publication) and the CNO has commissioned NIPEC to establish a Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities – Strategic Development Project Group to take forward the outworking's of the review.

In September 2022 the CNO and the CEx of NIPEC asked the Collaborative to provide a high-level overview of work of the NI Collaborative with a view to a refresh /rebrand and re-energising of the group whose primary function going forward would be to support the outworking's of the Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities – Strategic Development Project Group.

To that end the NI Collaborative members met on the 8th November 2022 to consider the membership of the new group and explore potential name changes.

There was a consensus view that the membership of the refreshed Group which aims to support Project Group must include those with the right professional expertise to inform the work and it was also agreed that the name of the group would change from the NI Collaborative to the Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities – Expert Reference Group (RNLD ERG)

Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities – Expert Reference Group (RNLD ERG)

AIM:

The RNLD ERG will act as a resource and an expert reference group for the various workstreams stemming from the Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities – Strategic Development Project Group. The RNLD ERG will:

- take responsibility for providing awareness and encouraging participation in the out workings of the Project group across all areas of nursing for people with learning disabilities
- actively contribute to the development of a Nursing Career Framework for RNLDs, to include specialist, advanced practice, consultant nurse and clinical academic roles across specialist learning disabilities services for children, adults and older people.
- provide a regional resource through the sharing of knowledge, expertise, service development, and innovation that will promote, influence and enhance best practice and consistency in nursing practice of people with learning disability within services across N. Ireland
- provide a forum to identify continuing professional development opportunities and inform the commissioning of programmes that will enhance RNLD practice aligned to the objectives of the Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities – Strategic Development Project Group.
- work with and utilise the RNLD Community of Practice to engage with RNLDs across the region to take forward specific work streams/initiatives being progressed - promoting opportunities to enhance professional leadership capacity and capability within RNLD nursing
- provide leadership and support for and support to all the nursing fields of practice and other professional groups who work with people with learning disabilities in Northern Ireland
- work to support the implementation of regionally agreed initiatives in local areas, facilitating action and communicating progress within their organisation
- when requested, give timely feedback to the group or to those in work streams on proposals, decisions or actions

Individual members of the RNLD ERG group will:

- Take a leadership role for specific elements of the work streams on behalf of the Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities – Strategic Development Project Group
- Actively engage and contribute to the work streams stemming from the RNLD ERG and work to agreed timescales
- Work to support the implementation of regionally agreed initiatives in local areas, facilitating action and communicating progress within their organisation

Membership

The RNLD ERG is comprised of individuals from a range of relevant organisations and sectors and involves representation from people with learning disabilities and family members / carers representation - as part of the process of implementation including:

Prof Owen Barr, Professor of Nursing and Intellectual Disabilities, Ulster University, Chair
Siobhan Rogan Assistant Director for Mental Health and Learning Disability, PHA.
Frances Cannon, Associate Senior Professional Officer, NIPEC (Project Support)
Roisin Devlin, ADoN SEHSCT representing 5 HSC ADON Workforce Education & Development
Michelle Curran, Consultant Nurse Learning Disabilities, BHSCT
Michael McBride RNLD, Children's, BHSCT
Frances Maguire, RNLD Adult, BHSCT
Barbara Tate, Trainee Consultant Nurse Learning Disabilities, SEHSCT
Julie Richie, representing RNLD Children's SEHSCT
Stephanie Price Lead Nurse Adult SEHSCT
Maureen Roberts Trainee Consultant Nurse Learning Disabilities, SHSCT
Donna Grant representing RNLD Children's SHSCT
Oisin McAuley representing RNLD Adult SHSCT
Seamus Coyle Trainee Consultant Nurse Learning Disabilities NHSCT
Rhona Brennan Operational Lead NHSCT
Michelle Angelone representing RNLD Children's NHSCT
Clionagh McElhinney Trainee Consultant Nurse Learning Disabilities, WHSCT
Janet Doherty Head of Service Lead Nurse Adult WHSCT
Donna Milligan Community Nurse – representing Children's WHSCT
Denise McGill Triangle Housing
Rosaline Kelly, Senior Nurse Professional Practice, Royal College of Nursing
Damian McAleer, Nurse Education Consultant, Clinical Education Centre,
Nicola McCann, Learning Disability Inspector, Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
Maurice Devine, Staff Tutor Open University
Dr Lynne Marsh, Senior Lecturer, Queens University Belfast
Leslie–Anne Newton Arc UK (circulation only)
Claire Thompson QUB Pre-registration student

Where required the RNLD ERG will identify and co-opt other members to contribute to the group were relevant.

RNLD ERG Meetings

- Meetings of the RNLD ERG will be held monthly
- Meetings will only proceed if there is representation from the five HSC Trusts and other groups in memberships of the ERG

- Meetings will take place using a blended approach including face to face meetings hosted across the region and virtual meetings (Microsoft Teams)
- Where required the RNLD ERG will identify and co-opt other colleagues to contribute to the group where relevant.
- When absence from meetings is unavoidable members will provide a short briefing paper ahead of the planned meetings.

Review and evaluation

There is a requirement for the RNLD ERG to provide a formal report on activity on an annual basis to the Chief Nursing Officer. Review and evaluation of progress, however, will be a continual dynamic by the RNLD ERG membership.

To ensure the TOR remain relevant and reflect current professional and strategic direction they will be reviewed at the first meeting of each year.

Review: November 2023