



## **Communique Summer 2016**

### **Phase 3 Delivering Care: District Nursing Teams**

The aim of the Delivering Care Project in Northern Ireland is to *support the provision of high quality care, which is safe and effective in hospital and community settings, through the development of a framework to determine staffing ranges for the nursing and midwifery workforce in a range of major specialities.*

Phase 3 provides a focus on District Nursing Teams. To date a significant amount of work has been taken forward to progress this work including the following key milestones:

- Jul '14**      **A literature review conducted by the University of Ulster related to workforce planning and capacity models**
- Jul '14**      **Description of units of measurement and definition of core district nursing activity**
- Aug – Nov '14**      **Consideration of tools currently in place to assist the definition of a model or approach to determining workforce needs in District Nursing Teams**
- Jul '14 – Dec '14**      **Multiple meetings with local and national experts to progress the work stream**
- Dec '14**      **Options appraisal for selection of tools**
- Mar '15**      **Definition of influencing factors that impact on a work force and the ability to meet work load demand**
- Mar '15**      **Definition of key performance indicators sensitive to nursing workload for determination of safe effective person centred care**
- Dec '14 – Mar '15**      **Pilot project in Belfast Trust to review an approach to determining workforce needs in District Nursing Teams**
- Oct '14 – present**      **Engagement of a software company to enable data collection through an online database**
- Oct '15 – Mar '16**      **Completion of a pilot data collection process including relevant training for District Nursing team members and data collection personnel.**
- Mar '16 – present**      **Review of the data accuracy and testing online tool for utility of function to inform a model for District Nursing Services.**

Significant investment has already been made in District Nursing services in Northern Ireland, and the Delivering Care Steering Group continues to remain committed to finding a solution to the approach for accurate workforce planning in such teams. In addition, international models of service delivery are being reviewed to inform the approach in Northern Ireland, such as Buurtzorg Nederland Home care.

Much progress has been made in advancing this important project stream and there is still work required to analyse the data collected across hundreds of teams locally. It is of significance that elsewhere in the United Kingdom, this area of nursing workforce planning has proven a challenge, with no one methodology recognised as the leading the way.

The Delivering Care Steering Group would wish to thank you for your contribution to this important Phase and reassure you that continued efforts are being made to find a robust method of determining workforce requirements for District Nursing teams. At the most recent meeting in June 2016, priorities were outlined, discussed and agreed, planning a way forward to ensure that the objectives of Phase 3 are achieved. Ultimately, this important work continues to support nurses within District Nursing teams to deliver a service which is safe, effective and person-centred to the people of Northern Ireland.