

## 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 New Year has seen a number of changes to the membership of the Northern Ireland Regional Collaborative (The Collaborative). Professor Owen Barr, Professor of Nursing and Intellectual Disabilities, Ulster University is now joined by Ms. Eileen McEaney, Executive Director of Nursing (EDoN) in the NHSCT as Co-Chair of the Collaborative. Eileen states “I view myself as providing a link for the Collaborative to the EDoN’s Forums and want to support the Collaborative in whatever way I can to help ensure RNLDs are connected to developments in the other fields of nursing practice and equally nurses working in other areas are aware of the work of the Collaborative.....”



Sarah Russell is a 3rd year student nurse on the Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities course at QUB. Sarah is now the pre-registration student representative.

Eilish Boyle was recently appointed to a seconded post as Professional Officer in NIPEC and will support Frances Cannon as the NIPEC Lead for the Collaborative. Membership of the Collaborative can be viewed on the NIPEC web page. <https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/>



The NI Collaborative sadly said farewell to Maurice Devine, MBE, Assistant Head, Clinical Education Centre, CEC. Maurice is replaced by Damian Mc Aleer, Nurse Education Consultant, Learning Disabilities, CEC. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Maurice for his commitment and support to the Collaborative and welcome Damian to the group.

## The RNLD Professional Development Forum (PDF)

58 participants from across services for people with learning disabilities in the HSCs, voluntary and private sectors attended the October RNLD Professional Development Forum. The October meeting saw the launch of the Outcome Resources Pack.

<https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/>

Professor Barr provided an overview of how to use the online resource. There were also presentations from RNLDs who use a range of outcome measurement tools in practice including:

- The Liverpool University Neuroleptic Side Effect Rating Scale (LUNSERS) presented by Paula McIlwaine Children’s Disability CNLD, SEHSCT.  
<https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/stc-rnld-forum/>
- The Disability Distress Assessment Tool (DisDat) presented by Glenda Frazer Community Nurse Manager, WHSCT.  
<https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/stc-rnld-forum/>

The presentations were followed by a question and answer session.



## RNLD Professional Development Forum Evaluation

Using a specifically prepared questionnaire the Forum meeting was used to ascertain participant's views on past activities and the future of the RNLD Professional Development Forum—the questionnaire was also disseminated to RNLDs via the NIPEC website using Survey Monkey for a six week period from 19<sup>th</sup> October to the 30<sup>th</sup> November. In total there were 79 responses which were overwhelming positive. There was strength of opinion that presentations in the future should have stronger links to practice and respondents suggested a range of topics for discussion at future events. The findings will be presented at the next RNLD Professional Development Forum and can be accessed via <https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/stc-rnld-forum/>

## The RCN Learning Disability Nurses Network

The RCN NI Learning Disability Nursing Network has also seen some changes. The 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 are 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 takes place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

## Other Updates

The Guidelines on Caring for People with a Learning Disability in General Hospital Revised June 2018 are available on the RQIA website.

<https://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/files/41/41a812c6-fee8-45ba-81b8-9ed4106cf49a.pdf>

An e-learning tool has been developed and can be accessed by HSC Trust employees, via the Regional Learning Portal <http://www.hsclearning.com> Staff will be required to use or obtain the username and password provided by their HSC Trust. Individuals employed outside the HSC Trusts can be provided with access to the site by applying through the e-learning section of the Clinical

Education Centre website. <http://cec.hscni.net/Courses/Unit/6>

**Priorities for 2018-2019** – The NI Collaborative have identified Key Priorities which are currently being progressed, details of how these can be accessed are available on the NIPEC NI Collaborative web page.

<https://nipec.hscni.net/service/ni-action-plan-stc/stc-docs/>

The Collaborative is delighted to report that Siobhan Rogan, Intellectual Disability CAMHS Manager & Advanced Practitioner RNLD, SHSCT has secured representation to the **Learning Disability Professional Senate**.



The NI **Future Nurse Future Midwife** Programme Board requested that the Collaborative meeting scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> January should be used to provide an opportunity for senior RNLDs to hear about the proposed QUB pre-registration Learning Disabilities Nursing 2020 Curriculum in the context of the new NMC Future Nurse Education standards. The purpose was to “sense check” curriculum content with experts working in service to ensure it reflected strategic policies and transformation agenda in the NI context. A report of the

event and associated presentation can be accessed on the NIPEC FNFM webpage.

[Future Nurse Future Midwife – NIPEC.](#)

**Dates for your Diary** -The next **Professional Development Forum** meetings will be held on the following dates **26<sup>th</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019** - *Venues to be confirmed.*

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