

**Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council
for Nursing and Midwifery**

**Report of the Review of DHSSPS
Commissioned Cancer Programmes**

1.0 Background

The DHSSPS commissions a range of programmes from education providers in Northern Ireland to support cancer nursing services. This is managed through the DHSSPS Education Commissioning Group to facilitate a regional approach to commissioning and delivery of programmes. In addition to this process the In-Service Education Consortia deliver programmes in response to agreements with the HSC Trusts. The Education Commissioning Group, in discussions in relation to the 2009-2010 Commissioning Plan, agreed that a brief review was required to ensure the programmes commissioned meet the needs of the health care sector and are fit for purpose. The Education Commissioning Group requested NIPEC to facilitate the review.

2.0 Review Plan and Approach

It was agreed with Education Commissioning Group that a Working Group would be convened to carry out the required work. Each Health and Social Care Trust was represented within the Working Group, together with representation from relevant Education Providers; the membership is attached at Appendix One. At the first meeting of the Working Group the Draft Initiative Plan and Terms of Reference were discussed and agreed by the Working Group.

The overall aim of this review was agreed as that of determining the 'fitness for purpose' of each programme and, if appropriate, make recommendations for adjustments to the design, content, number and target audience of the programmes. It was agreed that three meetings held between July 2010 and November 2010, supplemented by electronic communications, would allow the group to achieve the objectives.

At the first meeting of the Working Group it was clarified that the review was limited to those programmes currently commissioned by the DHSSPS. However, it was acknowledged that other programmes had been provided within the last three years, which were not included in the 2009-2010 DHSSPS Commissioning Plan. The Working Group agreed that all programmes provided within the previous three years would be included in the review; the initiative plan was amended to reflect this decision.

The objectives of the initiative were agreed as follows:

- To identify all relevant DHSSPS commissioned programmes that have been provided by education providers within Northern Ireland in the last three years.
- To analyse the relevance of each programmes' content, mode of delivery and learning outcomes to/for service delivery.
- To determine possible overlap in provision.
- To identify where change is required.
- To submit a report of the findings of the review to the DHSSPS Education Commissioning Group by November 2010.

3.0 Review of programmes

A list of existing programmes was submitted to the group and amended to reflect the scope of the review; a copy is attached at Appendix Two. Summary descriptors related to each programme were presented to the Working Group members. It was agreed that members would review each programme and identify whether the programmes were fit for purpose and identify any overlaps between programmes or gaps. The overall aim was to provide some future proofing which will ensure commissioned programmes over the next 3 to 5 years are fit for purpose.

In relation to each programme, the Working Group considered each programme title, content and learning outcomes. These areas were considered in terms of service need and identified gaps or duplication between programmes. It was agreed to review the programmes in relation to nationally agreed guidelines, for example, NICE guidelines. The group also agreed to consider the overarching provision of programmes to establish if priority needs were being met. The need to assure the relevance to practice of programmes for commissioning over the next five years was recognised and was included in the group's discussions and deliberations.

NICaN Senior Cancer Nurses Group provided a group response for consideration by the working group. The Working Group members met in October and November to discuss the findings from this group and agree recommendations for consideration by the Education Commissioning Group.

4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The Working Group concluded overall that the structure, content and outcomes of programmes currently delivered met service need. During its deliberations, the Working Group identified a number of issues that it considered would enhance education provision to support cancer nursing services. These are presented below for consideration by the Education Commissioning Group:

The Working Group recommends that:

- 1 In principle, the In-Service Education Consortia should deliver programmes designed for generalist nurses¹ and the Higher Education Institution providers should deliver programmes designed for nurses working in specialist areas and specialist nurses (including both chronic disease and cancer care).
- 2 Enhanced communication skills training for generalist nurses is an area for further attention, although it was noted that there are transferable skills in relation to this area of practice, for example, 'breaking bad news'. Trust cancer leads will require to address this through the annual education commissioning process.
- 3 The Administration of Chemotherapy Course should be targeted at those nurses directly involved in the administration of cytotoxic drugs and where the nurse can access the required practice area to develop and demonstrate competence. Provision must also be made through appropriate programmes to address the needs of nurses working outside oncology, for example in rheumatology.
- 4 The education commissioning process should make best use of multi-disciplinary programmes being provided within other health care institutions/provider organisations, such as, the Lymphoedema Care Programme currently provided by the Allied Health Care Professional Unit within the Beeches Management Centre.
- 5 In order to maintain and develop local expertise, some programmes should be commissioned every 2-3 years. It was noted that the low uptake and infrequent need for commissioning some programmes reflects the high level of specialism and consequently the low number being requested each year. This can often

¹ Generalist nurses refer to those working in non-specific cancer settings across all care boundaries and not including specialist nurses

result in important programmes not being commissioned or practitioners travelling to other countries. It was recommended that the NICaN Lead Cancer Nurses, through the Northern Ireland Cancer Network, should make recommendations in this regard to HSC Trust Education and Development Leads for consideration through the education commissioning process.

- 6 Palliative Care programmes for cancer and non cancer palliative care should delivered separately with opportunities for shared learning maximised. It was noted that there are different learning needs for practitioners in these care settings and the programmes require to address such needs.
- 7 It was noted that a number of programmes were provided relative to palliative care for practitioners at varying levels and working within various settings and it was not always clear regarding the target audience. The education providers should review the learning outcomes and content of Palliative Care programmes in collaboration with the NICaN Supportive and Palliative Care Network to ensure the target audience is clearly identified.
- 8 User involvement in the design and, where relevant, the delivery of programmes should be explored through the current mechanisms within the NICaN Public and Patient Involvement Forum

5.0 Conclusion

The Working Group welcomed the opportunity to review the programmes provided by a range of education provider organisations in Northern Ireland to support cancer nursing services. It is hoped that the above conclusions and recommendations will be helpful in continuing to ensure that the programmes meet service need and facilitate ongoing improvements in the provision of patient/client care.

MEMBERSHIP OF WORKING GROUP

**Review of DHSSPS Commissioned Cancer Education
Working Group Membership**

Belfast H&SC Trust

Sally Campalani, Directorate Nurse
David Robinson, Clinical Co-Ordinator

Northern H&SC Trust

Eileen Deery, Lead Nurse, Cancer Care

South Eastern H&SC Trust

Wilma Boyd-Carson, Specialist Nurse

Southern H&SC Trust

Ronan Carroll, Assistant Director of Nursing
Alison Porter, Head of Cancer Services

Western H&SC Trust

Brendan McGrath Assistant Director of Nursing
Liz England, Lead Nurse

Queen's University, Belfast

Richard Henry, Lecturer

University of Ulster

Eilis McCaughan, Reader in Cancer Care

Beeches Management Centre

Loretta Gribben, Nurse Education Consultant

NEDC

Kathleen Dunne, Nurse Education Consultant

NI Hospice

Sue Foster, Education Lead

NICAN

Liz Henderson, Network Nurse Director

NIPEC

Lesley Barrowman, Senior Professional Officer, (Chair)
Paula Fearon, Professional Officer

PROGRAMMES/STUDY DAYS COMMISSIONED 2008 – 2011

ORGANISATION	TYPE OF PROGRAMME	TITLE OF PROGRAMME	10/11	9/10	8/9
QUB	Specialist Practice	Cancer Care Nursing (Oncology)	√	√	√
	Specialist Practice	Supportive End of Life Care	√	√	√
	Specialist Practice	Cancer Care Palliative			√
	Short Course	Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation	√	√	√
	Double Module	Chemotherapy Administration and Principles of Radiotherapy (adult)	√	√	√
	Double Module	Chemotherapy Administration and Principles of Radiotherapy (children)		√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Supportive End of Life Care for Non-malignant Diseases	√	√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Palliative Nursing	√	√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Oncology Gynaecology Nursing	√	√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Radiotherapy Nursing Care	√	√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Care of Patients with Lung Cancer	√	√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Care of Patients with Breast Cancer	√	√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Modern strategies for Pain Management	√	√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Cancer Treatment and Management of		√	

	Stand Alone Module	Palliative Care for Children and their families		√	√
	Stand Alone Module	Lymphoedema Care (small numbers)			√
University of Ulster	Specialist Practice	Palliative Care			√
	Stand Alone Module	Advanced Symptom Management Palliative Care			√
NIHospice	Distance Learning	Princess Alice Certificate in Essential Palliative Care			
BMC	Stand Alone Module	Introduction to Cancer Nursing			
	Stand Alone Module	Introduction to Palliative Care Nursing			
	Stand Alone Module	Head and Neck Cancer Care			
	Study Day(s)	Pain Management for the Patient with Cancer and Non Cancer Related Palliative Care Conditions			
	Study Day(s)	Symptom Management for the Patient with Cancer and Non Cancer Related Palliative Care Conditions			
	Study Day	Administration of Intravesicular Chemotherapy			
	Study Day(s)	Management of Skin Cancer			
NEDC	Stand Alone Module	Introduction to Cancer Nursing			
	Stand Alone Module	Introduction to Palliative Care Nursing			
	Study Day	Oncology			



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