



The  
Queen's  
Nursing  
Institute

# IMPACT REPORT 2021



How we  
helped

## About the Queen's Nursing Institute



The Queen's Nursing Institute is a charity dedicated to improving nursing care for people at home and in the community.

Every year, millions of people of all ages need professional nursing care, in or close to home. People today live longer, often with complex health conditions, and they are discharged from hospital more quickly. Those patients can make a better recovery, and can avoid unnecessary hospital re-admissions, if they have the support of skilled community nurses.

We work with nurses, managers and policy makers to make sure that high quality nursing is available for everyone in their homes and communities.

Our aim is to ensure that people receive high quality care when and where they need it, from the right nurse, with the right skills.

# Foreword from the QNI's Chief Executive, Dr Crystal Oldman CBE



2021 was another unprecedented year for healthcare, both in the UK and around the world. At the end of 2020, we heard with relief the news that vaccines that could protect against Covid-19 had been successfully developed and so the mass vaccination programme started – primarily organised, led and delivered by nurses in the community and primary care.

Despite this, governments struggled with vaccine hesitancy and logistical problems that meant that some countries and communities were much better protected than others, enabling continued high rates of infection and illness in many parts of the world. Novel strains of coronavirus emerged in multiple locations, necessitating continued restrictions to normal life and extra burdens on already stretched healthcare services.

The virus continued to take many people's lives in 2021 despite the myriad improvements in treatment; others were left with the symptoms of Long Covid that are only just now beginning to be recognised and acknowledged, and treatments developed. The impacts on mental and emotional health are enduring and have affected people of all ages.

The QNI extended membership of its Long Covid Nurse Expert group, providing a community of practice for nurses supporting people of all ages experiencing Long Covid, in every setting in the community. We also established an Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Champions Network for nurses working in adult social care, in addition to the continuing work of the highly valued Care Home Nurse network, now in its third year of operation.

The work to support Homeless and Inclusion Health nurses has continued, with an expanded number of special interest groups, which were established to enable more specific learning needs to be met for nurses working with some of the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.

We supported a growing number of nurses with financial assistance, and emotional support through our TalktoUs listening service, staffed by trained Queen's Nurses. Our work throughout 2021 demonstrates the responsive nature of the QNI, adapting our resources to deliver on our core purpose, supporting nurses working in community settings in every way we can. This impact report captures only some highlights of our efforts to offer support during these challenging times.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Dr Crystal Oldman".

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE  
Chief Executive

**“ I must pay tribute to all of the nurses from across health and social care who continue to provide care during the Covid-19 pandemic. Their fortitude, courage, resilience and ingenuity has shone through the darkest of times.”**

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive, The QNI

# Homeless and Inclusion Health



The QNI supports community nurses to achieve outstanding levels of care for people experiencing homelessness.

With the right support to tackle enduring medical, personal and social problems, it is possible for people experiencing homelessness to secure positive health – a foundation for rebuilding more secure and stable lives. The Homeless and Inclusion Health Programme is a national network to improve the health of groups who are facing multiple disadvantages, particularly:

- People experiencing homelessness
- Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Boater and Showman communities
- Vulnerable Migrants
- Sex Workers



**“** The QNI's Homeless and Inclusion Health newsletter has been a great way to keep up to date with all the latest news in Inclusion Health and also there have been some great job opportunities advertised. I've been able to connect with healthcare practitioners, as well as other multidisciplinary colleagues, working within Inclusion Health and have found that invaluable in supporting me in my work. I am so glad I was introduced to the QNI.

Homeless and Inclusion Health Network member

The Homeless and Inclusion Health programme team created several case studies with nurses who work with people experiencing homelessness as part of their mission to raise the profile of Inclusion Health. Read them here: <https://www.qni.org.uk/nursing-in-the-community/homeless-health-programme/student-resources-in-inclusion-health/>

The campaign on families experiencing homelessness continues and we are in the process of writing a report to support the development of policy recommendations related to children experiencing homelessness.

The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller nurses support group has expanded to include Boaters and Showmen.

The 3 bi-monthly network meetings have an attendance rate between 10-25 members.

We have continued fortnightly Homeless and Inclusion Health newsletters and have seen a significant increase in new members over the last year.

We have set up a Homeless and Inclusion Health Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/homelesshealth>

“ Thank you for showing me the QNI’s website and the student resource page on homeless and inclusion health. I really like the ‘a day in the life’ case studies. There are so many community services working with marginalised people that I was unaware of. I can’t wait to see the presentation on homeless and inclusion health.

Student feedback on Homeless and Inclusion Health website

## Financial assistance



The QNI offers financial assistance to registered nurses who work or have worked in the community for a minimum of three years.

All requests are considered, but help is usually given, for example, with the provision of essential household items, building repairs or adaptations, respite care, specialist equipment such as walk-in baths, stair lifts, electric wheelchairs and amenity bills. Applications are also considered for educational grants to help community nurses stay in the profession and improve their knowledge and skills.

“ Oh that is really brilliant, thank you very very much, I really appreciate this. First time I feel I have been given what feels a ‘reward’ in my career.

Education grant recipient



“ I really can’t thank you enough for this. It will certainly take the pressure off whilst I take time off work with my family to grieve for my husband. Thank you again so much for your support and again for awarding me this financial help at this extremely difficult time’.

Financial assistance recipient

“ I would like to thank QNI for providing such support at a time I nearly gave up.

Education grant recipient

The QNI saw a substantial rise in applications for financial assistance during 2021:

A total of 371 grants were awarded in 2021. Usually it is only community nurses who are considered when awarding grants, but the QNI was given a grant from the Covid 19 Healthcare Support Appeal (CHSA) so were able to include all registered nurses that had been affected financially by the pandemic.

91 registered nurses were awarded funding compared to 2020 where 78 received a grant - an increase of 16%.

As well as financial assistance, the QNI also awarded 68 educational grants, totalling in excess of £45,000. Only 27 such grants were awarded in 2020. These courses included 'Non medical prescribing', 'Health assessment in Clinical Practice', 'Minor surgery skills', 'Care for the Adult with Diabetes', 'COPD and the management of Asthma'.

As well as CPD courses, the QNI helped a number of nurses take higher level qualifications such as MSc and PhD dissertations, looking at topics such as 'Practice development in Midwifery', 'Palliative Care', and 'Dementia Studies' to name a just a few.

“ Just wanted to express my sincere thanks to the QNI trust and all involved in my application for assistance. Have felt very low over the last few weeks with the pain from my injury and worry of how I will cope have made things a little tricky. The help that you have given will make things a little easier for myself and my family and so I just wanted to say a genuine thank you’.

Financial assistance recipient

“ It has been a busy year and very hard for so many people. There has been such a wide variety of applications as people have been affected in so many ways. Sometimes it can be one thing after another, it only takes a washing machine to need replacing for things to escalate and seem unmanageable. Many people are more fragile, just that bit closer to the edge, living day to day.

Justine Curtis, Grants Officer

# Publications



In 2021, we published a large number of resources, newsletters, reports and guidance for community nurses. All of these resources can be found on our website, [www.qni.org.uk](http://www.qni.org.uk).



## Community Learning Disability (CLD) Nursing Standards

The QNI and QNIS published new voluntary standards for CLD Nurses in the UK. The standards articulate the specific elements of advanced practice demonstrated by Registered Nurses who have completed a CLD Nurse Specialist Practitioner Qualification (SPQ) programme.



## Untapped Potential: DN Services and the Avoidance of Unplanned Admissions to Hospital

The QNI published a new report on the potential of District Nursing services to reduce the number of unplanned admissions to hospital. The report is the latest report from the QNI's International Community Nursing Observatory (ICNO).



**"**I am delighted that we are publishing this book of stories; it is one way in which the QNI is helping community nurses to find their voice and articulate their value, describing their work as it is actually done, rather than as imagined.

By presenting the stories our goal is to bring the incredibly diverse, complex and challenging work of School Nurses to a much wider audience. The pandemic not only interrupted the original launch of the book in 2020 but has contributed to making nurses' work that much more challenging.

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive, QNI on the 'School Nurse Stories' booklet



### Transition of Care Programme Evaluation

The QNI published an evaluation of its Transition of Care programme. The aim of the programme was to analyse and improve the experience of young people transitioning from children's to adult community health services.



### Race, Equality and Inclusivity Action Plan

The QNI undertook the first formal Race, Equality and Inclusivity review led by QNI Fellow and Trustee Professor Ami David MBE. The 13 recommendations are grouped into three organisational themes; QNI structure and culture; QNI operational work; QNI as an influencer.



### Covid-19 Impact Report

The QNI published a new impact report, 'How we Helped during the Pandemic' illustrating the significant impact Covid-19 had on the charity and showing how it adapted to continue providing much-needed support to community nurses and to the people, families and communities they care for.



### Education and Practice Standards for Care Home Nurses

Commissioned by NHSE/I, the QNI and Skills for Care published the first ever standards for nurses working in residential homes. These standards are augmented by a Practice Portfolio developed with Skills for Care.



### Report on District Nursing Education in the UK

The QNI's eighth annual District Nurse (DN) Specialist Practitioner Qualification (SPQ) education audit. The report covers the four countries of the UK and summarises the results of an audit of DN education in the UK during the academic year 2019/20.



### School Nurse Stories

The QNI launched a book of stories on school nursing written by School Nurses themselves. The book – which features 19 different case studies – was written following a workshop with author Suzanne Gordon and with the support of Public Health England.



### Community Nurse Stories

The QNI launched a collection of twenty remarkable stories written by community nurses and edited - once again - by Suzanne Gordon. The stories describe the real work that community nurses carry out in all sorts of settings, delivering outstanding care in or closer to people's homes.

# TalkToUs©



The QNI's listening service, TalkToUs©, was launched in May 2020 to offer emotional support by phone to registered nurses working in the community during the pandemic.

The service is operated by trained listeners (Queen's Nurses) who are available to speak to any nurses working in community or social care, including those supporting care homes, and nurses working with people who are homeless. TalkToUs© is intended as a friendly ear for nurses who would like to talk to someone in complete confidence about their life and work at the current time. We cannot provide counselling, but we can signpost to other sources of support if appropriate.

**“ Just knowing you are there if I need you is a great comfort to me.**  
TalkToUs feedback

**“ I just needed to tell someone and feel listened to.**  
TalkToUs feedback

**“ Thank you so much for listening and being there – I know you understand.**  
TalkToUs feedback

**“ I am very grateful for your support and listening ear in a safe environment.**  
TalkToUs feedback



Throughout 2021, the TalkToUs team continued to offer a telephone listening service to community nurses in all areas of community nursing. The Team are all committed to providing peer-to-peer emotional support to community nurses in a very timely responsive manner, helping them cope with the many challenges the pandemic has presented.

TalkToUs has supported community nurses from a wide variety of areas and specialism.

Several mailouts were undertaken in 2021, and further mailouts in 2022 are planned in order to extend this ongoing service to more community nurses.

A short film was made by our funders, CHSA, which includes an interview with QNI Chief Executive Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, speaking about the TalkToUs service and other examples of the services supported by the CHSA. To watch the film, go to [www.qni.org.uk/help-for-nurses/talktous/](http://www.qni.org.uk/help-for-nurses/talktous/)

“ Thank you so much for listening – it makes such a difference knowing you are a community nurse who understands my situation.

TalkToUs feedback

“ Thank you for listening and allowing me to talk this through with someone who cares.

TalkToUs feedback

“ As the Chief Executive of the QNI, I am proud that we are able to offer this kind of support to nurses working in the community. The commitment these nurses have to their patients is awe-inspiring and it is an honour to be able to offer this service when they need a little extra support.

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, QNI Chief Executive

## Keep In Touch©



The QNI's Keep in Touch© (KiT) project is a practical way in which we aim to strengthen the Queen's Nurse community, past and present.

The project offers opportunities to speak to retired Queen's or community nurses regularly on the phone, to talk about life experiences, aspects of nursing past and present, memories and future plans. It encourages social interaction and creates new bonds.

**“ I have been shielding for so long now, it is so good to hear from my volunteer weekly – she keeps me in touch with the outside world.**

KiT member



**“ I think I look forward to our weekly calls as much as she does!**

KiT volunteer

**“ Your calls are so important to me – they give me something to look forward to.**

KiT member

**“ We were talking so much we were amazed how quickly the time went!**

KiT volunteer

**“ I don't know what I would do if I didn't have this contact – the QNI were wonderful to match me to you – I really enjoy our conversations.**

KiT member

The KiT Team currently has 34 volunteers supporting 37 contacts, with 17 others receiving regular calls from the QNI. During 2021 the KiT programme:

Maintained regular calls with all contacts throughout the pandemic

Made extra calls to contacts who were isolated due to the pandemic

Ensured all contacts and other retired members received birthday, Christmas and other festive holiday greetings cards and copies of QNI's Home Visit newsletter

A poem about KiT, by Queen's Nurse and KiT member, Sue Wynne

### **Keep in Touch - What Does It Mean?**

*'Keep in touch' - what does it mean,  
A friendly voice from in between.  
A person speaks a comforting word  
To one who never goes out in the world.*

*'Keep in touch' - what does it mean  
To those we know but have not seen  
A laugh, a joke about daily life,  
We share our troubles we share our strife.*

*'Keep in touch' - what does it mean,  
Sharing the past, for what has been.  
Lending an ear with the highest endeavour  
To people whose worth we are privileged to treasure.*

*'Keep in touch' - what does it mean  
To make a difference to someone in need.  
  
From all of us who keep in touch  
Send out a message of joy and love  
To those who keep our weekly slot,  
Keep on going it means a lot.*

# Nurse Leadership Programmes



The QNI runs two leadership programmes: the Executive Nurse Leadership Programme and the Aspiring Leaders Programme.

The Executive Nurse Leadership Programme - funded by the National Garden Scheme - is for Queen's Nurses who are senior nurse leaders working at Executive or Assistant/Associate Director level in the community setting. It is a nine-day residential leadership programme designed to develop participants into future senior leaders.

The Aspiring Leaders Programme is designed to support the professional development of nurses working in the community to become future leaders in healthcare, to the benefit of the people, families and communities they serve.



**“** The [Executive Nurse Leadership] programme has really changed people's lives, that's what they're telling us and that's what we can see. Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive, The QNI

**“** The best part of this [Aspiring Leaders] programme is watching people go from A to Z.’  
Sharon Aldridge-Bent, Director of Nursing Programmes (Leadership), The QNI (left)

**“** It's the best move you will ever make, and you will wonder how on earth have I been going on so long without all these tools that this leadership course can offer you.’  
Charlotte Hudd, Registered Nurse, feedback on Aspiring Leaders Programme



### **Executive Nurse Leadership Programme in 2021**

-Recruited 12 senior nurses to this programme. We redesigned the programme to commence online due to the pandemic which proved to be a huge success.

### **Executive Nurse Leadership Programme in 2021**

-Successes from this cohort: two applied for more senior roles and two were seconded to the CNO Community Fellowship Programme. The whole group participated in a film to promote the programme: <https://www.qni.org.uk/explore-qni/leadership-programmes/executive-nurse-leadership-programme/>

### **Aspiring Leadership Programme in 2021**

-Recruitment to this programme was extremely popular and we had to change our strategy to create two cohorts instead of one. We have two programmes with 36 participants.

### **Aspiring Leadership Programme in 2021**

-We changed our business model, and it is now self-sustaining, allowing us to have a wider reach and offer the programme to non-QNs. In excess of a third of the nurses have either secured or are applying to more senior roles because of the learning and development on the programme.

“ The QNI Executive Nurse Leadership was one of the best professional experiences that I have been privileged to be part of. It inspired me, gave me my voice - thank you George, the NGS and the QNI.”

Salli Pilcher, Registered Nurse, feedback on Executive Nurse Leadership Programme

## Influencing policy



The QNI is involved in many areas of policy and campaigning at local, regional and national level.

We regularly consult with Queen's Nurses and other experts in our networks on questions of nursing policy, practice, workforce and education. This grassroots information enables the QNI to speak with authority and conduct campaigns on a wide range of subjects, based on evidence from different specialties and regions.

**“** ‘Thank you so much for this extraordinary presentation. I hope it gives us all reasons to amplify our voices and force government and local action with information and data we have received today and get involved and advocate for this agenda.’

Delegate at QNI Annual Conference, ‘Building Back Better’



**“** ‘What an agenda. My mind is blown! Thank you to each and every one of you that pulled this together. You have given us the most incredible opportunity to hear directly from inspirational global leaders in the year that brought us the biggest health crisis.

Delegate feedback from QNI Annual Conference, ‘Building Back Better’.

**“** ‘Thank you to all the speakers, it was very informative and encouraging.

Delegate feedback from Infection, Prevention and Control Champions Network Launch

The QNI is a member of the following groups: the National Community Nursing Plan Clinical Reference Group; the National Wound Care Strategy Education Group; the Advisory Group developing Universal Principles of Advanced Care Planning

Sharon Aldridge-Bent, the QNI's Director of Nursing Programmes (Leadership) attended the NHSE/I CNO Long Covid Virtual Nursing Board. Eve Thrupp, the QNI's Nursing Programmes Manager (Leadership) attended and contributed to the Long Covid subgroup, with external partners that developed and discussed pathways which were written up and published.

The Care Home Nurse Network (CHNN) continued to grow – with currently 1323 registered nurses - an Information Hub was also developed for this network. Network meetings with presentations on current issues are attended by hundreds of members each quarter, enabling excellent opportunities for ongoing sharing and learning.

The QNI developed an Infection Prevention and Control Champions Network – commissioned by DHSC and launched in November 2021 – 626 network members from adult social care including nurses and senior care workers. There is a dedicated webpage for this: <https://www.qni.org.uk/nursing-in-the-community/infection-prevention-and-control-champions/>

The Homeless and Inclusion Health programme team hold regular meetings with nurses who work with Gypsy/Roma/Traveller/Boater and Showman communities and also with nurses who work in street outreach. The network members regularly contribute to government policy on inclusion health issues.

The QNI created a Long Covid Nurse Expert Group (Community of Practice) – commissioned by NHSE/I and started in April 2021, with currently 279 registered nurses. There is also a dedicated webpage for this: <https://www.qni.org.uk/nursing-in-the-community/long-covid-nurse-expert-group/>

The QNI has created a professional network of Health Visitors who support families experiencing homelessness. This group meets regularly to discuss the issues affecting the large number of homeless families with young children in the UK. We have collaborated with a number of other national and local organisations working in this field to raise the issues at national policy level and this work is ongoing.

QNI is a member of CAPA (the Covid Airborne Protection Alliance), lobbying for better quality IPC protection for health care workers in the UK. The Alliance has campaigned publicly to ask for greater protection, which puts community nurses working in people's homes and other settings at increased risk.

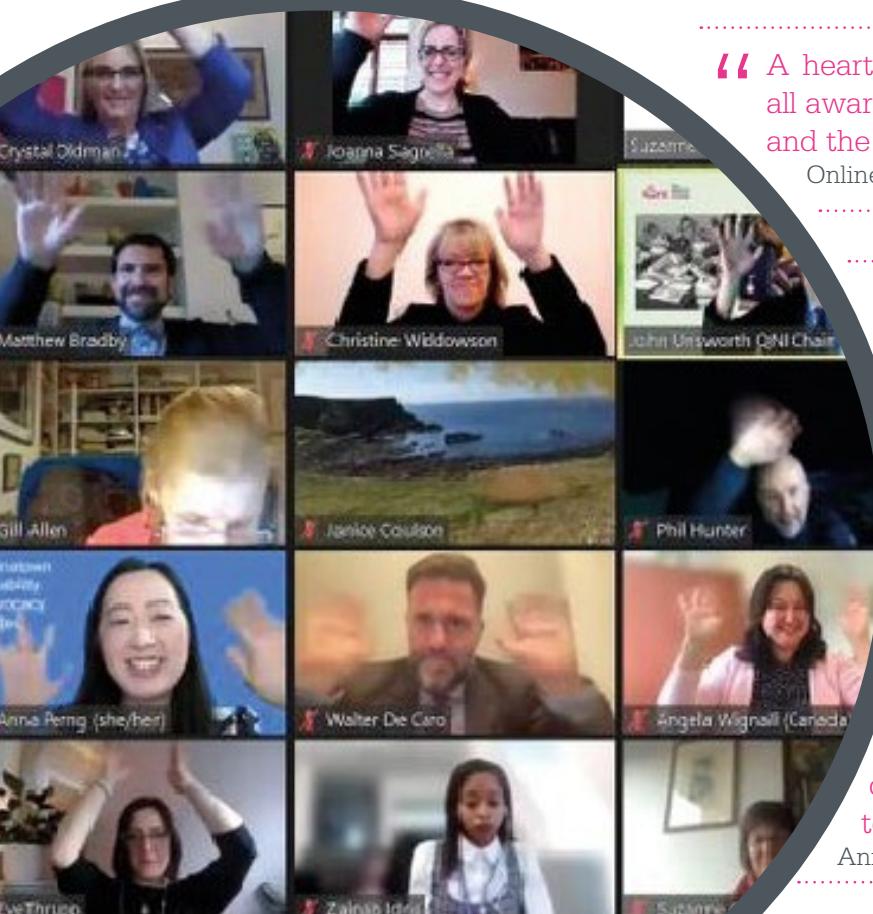
# Events



All of the QNI events of 2021 took place online. The Annual Conference, this year entitled, 'Building Back Fairer' took place online again over five days with a line up of 40 speakers and viewed in eight countries around the world. The Awards Ceremony also took place online again with a record 318 new Queen's Nurses receiving their title. To view summaries of any of the QNI's events, please go to [www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/events](http://www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/events)

**“Sitting here watching the roll of fab new Queen's Nurses being announced. Feel very proud of this amazing institution supporting community nurses to thrive! Proud to be a nurse this evening!**

Awards Ceremony delegate feedback



**“A heartwarming award ceremony. Well done to all award winners and thank you to John, Crystal and the team for hosting such a wonderful event.**

Online Awards Ceremony delegate feedback

**“Thank you for such a phenomenal 5 days of conference, speakers have been stellar and I am leaving inspired, re-energised and full of the art of the possible for community nursing as we move forward. It has been awesome #qni2021.”**

Annual Conference delegate feedback

**“If there was ever a session to reignite my passion and commitment to community nursing this was it - we have so much work to do but there's no workforce better than nursing to lead the way - let's go to it!**

Annual Conference delegate feedback

**Awards Ceremony:** the QNI held its second online awards ceremony in the charity's history on 15 December 2021. It was attended by a record 600 guests. The programme followed the usual order of events with the presentation of Fellowship, the Outstanding Service Award, academic prizes for students of specialist practice, innovation and leadership award winners and Queen's Nurses.

**Annual Conference:** the QNI held its conference online for the second time with the theme this year being, 'Building Back Fairer'. Over forty speakers took part and the event was attended by over 1500 community nurses and other health professionals from countries including Nigeria, Switzerland, USA, Liberia, Poland, Norway, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, as well as the four countries of the UK.

**All Community Nurse Executive Network (CNEN) meetings** continued to occur monthly online, with more than 150 members who are executive nurses of community services. The CNEN is generously sponsored by Hallam Medical and provides an excellent opportunity for sharing and learning in a safe and confidential space.

**International Recruitment in Community Nursing:** This was the launch event for the new project. It featured community healthcare providers, experts by experience, and support organisations such as NHS Employers, for nurses who are new to working in the community in England, or who want to find out more about the opportunities available in this country.

**The Queen's Nurse Annual Meeting** was held on Nurses Day, 12 May. A meeting solely for QNs, the theme of the day-long conference was 'Learning from the Pandemic'. Featuring an inspiring list of speakers who provided examples of innovation in practice during this pandemic, it also saw the launch of the QNI's new film, 'Queen's Nurses and Call the Midwife in Conversation' (<https://www.qni.org.uk/callthemidwife/>)

**The Community Nurse Innovation Programme workshops** for the two cohorts (People with a Learning Disability and People with Complex Needs) were transferred online with dedicated - and password protected - webpages being created alongside the zoom sessions.

**Digital Innovations in Nursing in the Community:** the QNI held two digital events where we explored the new digital technology platforms that are available, and asked the experts and users of these systems for advice about getting the best from them in practice.

**Other meetings:** the QNI also held many other smaller scale external meetings, such as the Infection Prevention and Control Champions meetings; the Long Covid Expert Nurse Group meetings; the International Nurse Recruitment webinars amongst others.

# Fundraising



In 2021, we had many people fundraise for us for which we are very grateful! Big thanks and congratulations to: Ona Croft and her sister Laura and cousins, Kayla and Zara; Alison McQuail; the whole team at Malinko; Vanessa Hurley and Matt Midwinter.

“ Everyone was there at the finish line to join in our celebrations, which was another highlight. 3 generations of family from all over the UK had come along to cheer us on, including all of our kids who had watched us train for months! Showing them what is achievable with investment of enough time and effort was priceless.

Ona Croft

“ We had queues outside the gate and queues for cakes. We had loads of cakes made by all my friends which were fabulous. We knitted scarecrows for sale and sold plants and local honey; some of the plants came from the Dawlish Garden Trust which employs people with a learning disability.

A few days beforehand, we had help from residents from a local care home for people with a learning disability whom we paid to help us and provided lunch, so it was a great day. I also had help from one of the gentlemen I support in the community who really enjoyed the two open days - he met loads of people and loved it.

It was a real community effort: there were 12 of us helping on each day, which was definitely needed!

Vanessa Hurley





### A Family Affair

Ona Croft and her sister Laura and cousins Kayla and Zara took on a big challenge together: to complete 3 marathons between the 4 of them in memory of their aunt, Queen's Nurse, Marie Hudson. They raised an incredible £2000.



### Alison McQuail

Animal artist, Alison McQuail, raised hundreds of pounds for the QNI's TalkToUs listening service through a pet portrait competition. The winner was Angela Yates from Birmingham, who received a bespoke painting of her pet dog Teddy.



### Malinko

The team at Malinko took on a Christmas Challenge to run or walk 30 miles in 30 days and raised £500 for the QNI. They braved the winter weather and even took to rollerblading in their local park to raise some money.



### Vanessa Hurley

Queen's Nurse Vanessa Hurley opened her garden in Dawlish, Devon, for the National Garden Scheme - the QNI's oldest and largest funder - and raised the incredible total of £1845. Her original target for the two-day opening was just £500.



### Matt Midwinter

Matt, a veteran from Devon, decided to run 100 miles in five days for the QNI. Unfortunately he injured his back and had to stop after 62 miles - nonetheless a huge achievement and we are grateful for his valuable contribution.

# National Garden Scheme



The National Garden Scheme has supported the QNI since 1927 and is our single biggest funder.

We are very grateful to the National Garden Scheme, which funds the Queen's Nurse programme and all 1700 Queen's Nurses.

We enjoy a shared history as the National Garden Scheme was created in 1927 at a QNI council meeting by Trustee, Elsie Wagg, who proposed it as a fundraising idea.

Since then, the National Garden Scheme has raised millions of pounds not just for the QNI, but for other nursing and caring charities too.

2022 celebrates 95 years of this partnership and as part of the celebrations a new scholarship, The NGS/ Elsie Wagg Scholarship, was launched for community nurses, for projects that promote the health benefits of gardening and garden visiting among a group of people. These will begin in early 2022.



“ We are so grateful to the National Garden Scheme for all their support over so many years. Our Queen's Nurse programme would not be possible without it.

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, QNI CEO



During 2021, Queen's Nurses celebrated the National Garden Scheme's annual Gardens and Health Week and took on the 'QN Garden Selfie Challenge', taking a photo of themselves in their green space and sharing it on social media, thanking the National Garden Scheme for their support. One of the Queen's Nurses, Vanessa Hurley (see page 19) opened her garden for the National Garden Scheme.

**“**We are delighted to be announcing this important new element to our support for the Queen's Nursing Institute, the charity which founded the National Garden Scheme over 90 years ago to raise funds to support district nurses. Recent evidence has demonstrated the widespread benefits that gardens offer to a wide range of physical and mental health conditions so we are confident that the expertise and innovation of Queen's Nurses will ensure that some really important and rewarding projects will appear.

George Plumptre, Chief Executive, The National Garden Scheme

## Other News



2021 was a busy year and the QNI held more events and published more reports and publications than any other year before. We were delighted to welcome six new members of staff; launched an animated film; became a member of the International Council of Nurses; created a new award for Internationally Educated Nurses and were very grateful to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales for creating a special thank you message for all nurses working in the community.

We look forward to 2022!



“ I am fully aware of the relentless challenges you face on a daily basis, and so, if I may, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you working in the community, in primary care and in care homes, in hospices, in schools and clinics and in every setting where healthcare has been and continues to be so urgently needed.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

In August 2021, the QNI launched an animated film to celebrate the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. Narrated by actor Stephen McGann, the film was entirely funded by healthcare recruitment company Hallam Medical. Watch the film here: [www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/year-of-the-nurse-and-the-midwife-celebrated-in-new-animation/](http://www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/year-of-the-nurse-and-the-midwife-celebrated-in-new-animation/)

Six new members of staff were appointed: Louise Bellamy, Programme Administrator; Gabriella Acen, Programme Administrator; Kendra Schneller, Homeless and Inclusion Health Project Lead; Eve Thrupp, Nursing Programmes Manager (Leadership), Esther Kirby, Community Nursing Project Manager and Dr Amanda Young, Nursing Programmes Manager (Innovation). Read their bios here: [www.qni.org.uk/explore-qni/about/our-people/qni-staff/](http://www.qni.org.uk/explore-qni/about/our-people/qni-staff/)

The QNI became a new member of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) - a federation of more than 130 national nurses' associations, representing more than 27 million nurses worldwide. Read more here: [www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/qni-becomes-member-of-international-council-of-nurses/](http://www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/qni-becomes-member-of-international-council-of-nurses/)

A new award was created to recognise Internationally Educated Nurses working in community settings in England. Internationally Educated Nurses who worked in any health or social care setting in the community in England for 1 to 3 years were eligible for nomination by their employers. The winners were announced at the Annual Awards Ceremony.

We were delighted that His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales recorded a special message of thanks for those attending the annual conference of The Queen's Nursing Institute, and all nurses working in the community. View the recorded message here: [www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/a-message-of-thanks-from-his-royal-highness-the-prince-of-wales/](http://www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/a-message-of-thanks-from-his-royal-highness-the-prince-of-wales/)

“ I look forward to the Queen's Nursing Institute being an active participant in the ICN. Attending sessions of the ICN's Congress recently has only reinforced the need for nursing organisations to work across borders in order to improve nursing practice and support individual and population health.

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive, The QNI



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