

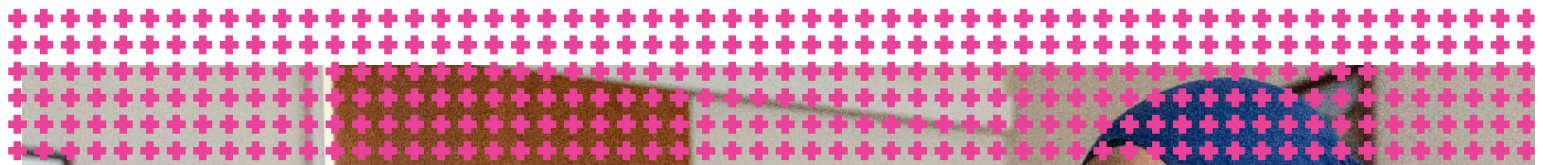


Department
of Health &
Social Care



Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Champions Network

IMPACT REPORT 2023





Background and Summary

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) has commissioned The Queen's Nursing Institute to develop and deliver the IPC Champions Network to support staff working in Adult Social Care across England since September 2021. This provides a national platform with an open membership to adult social care workers who have an interest in IPC.

Deliverables requested by DHSC included:

1. The establishment of a network;
2. Host regular virtual events that centre on IPC-related matters, delivering engaging content and partnering with guest speakers;
3. Disseminate regular communications via a newsletter;
4. Enable the organic sharing of best practice in IPC to contain and manage outbreaks, from frontline staff via a collaborative forum (such as a QNI-moderated Facebook page);
5. Act as a conduit for communication – enable the sharing of new DHSC policy and/or any changes to PHE clinical advice in IPC management, to maintain evidence-based practice through a rapid dissemination process.

“ I am delighted to be able to work with the QNI to establish the IPC network which will build on the excellent work already being undertaken by colleagues across social care to continue protecting those who need support.

The network will help support frontline clinical staff in maintaining and improving standards.

Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Deborah Sturdy CBE

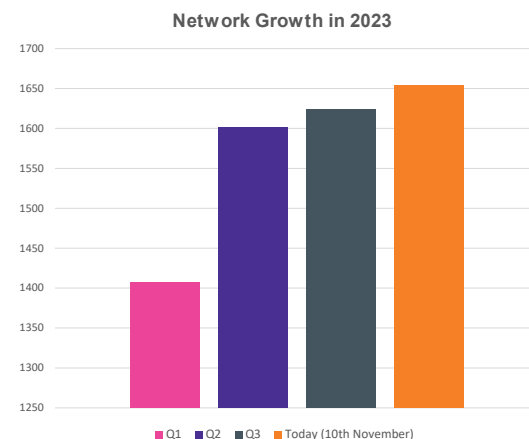


IPC Champions Network Growth - 2021 - 2023

- The QNI IPC Champion Network has continued to grow in numbers, demonstrating the need for this network.
- At the last count (November 2023) we have 1641 members
- Since the launch, membership has grown by about 150 members per quarter.
- Membership includes staff working in Adult Social Care from across England including but not limited to Nursing Homes, Care Homes, Domiciliary Care and Supported Living and IPC practitioners and leads that support staff working in Adult Social Care.

Network Activity

- Regular 'themed' events are held virtually for 2 hours, usually 200- 400 members register (see page 6) and about 50% of those join. We see some care homes join with several staff.
- Page 5 shows summary of events.
- Themes for events come from suggestions by network members.
- After each event a summary is written and included in the newsletter: <https://qni.org.uk/news-and-events/events/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-champions-meeting/>
- Following each event a newsletter is sent, this includes links to summary, presentations with speakers' permission and any updates and resources <https://qni.org.uk/infection-prevention-and-control-champions/infection-prevention-resources/>
- QNI host an IPC Champions webpage this includes links to joining network, events, summary of past events and live resource list (see link above).
- The QNI IPC Champions network website pages have had 15,570 views since the launch in October 2021.
- Feedback from network members is collected from meeting chat, Mentimeter and a network survey.



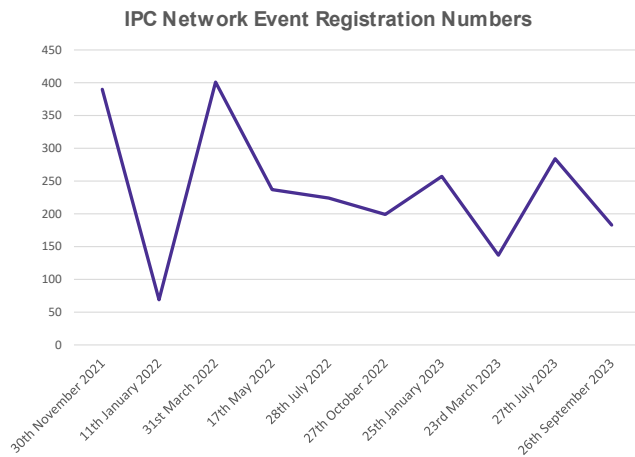


IPC Champions Network Events

Date	Theme
November 2021	Launch Event 251 members joined this event Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse ASC, DHSC, gave the keynote speech. Examples from public health team and community health provider on IPC support for ASC
<i>January 2022</i>	<i>National Guidance Update Updates from DHSC, UKHSA & NHSE</i>
March 2022	Recognising and Responding to Infection Provider experience of using RESTORE2 to recognise and respond to an unwell resident.
<i>May 2022</i>	<i>The Environment NHS Estates & Facilities: NHSE Cleanliness Standards CQC inspector: environment inspection</i>
July 2022	Hydration & UTI NHSE IPC Improvement lead: hydration and UTIs. Prof Jennie Wilson IPS President: I-Hydrate research project findings.
<i>October 2022</i>	<i>Winter Planning (joint event with QNI Care Home Nurse Network) NHSE IPC Improvement Lead & Delivery and Policy Lead at Enhanced Health in Care Home: Admission Avoidance UKHSA: Outbreak Management</i>
January 2023	Wellbeing & Resilience (joint event with QNI Care Home Nurse Network) Care Home Provider: Professional Nurse Advocate Social Care Well Being Lead: Looking After Yourself
<i>March 2023</i>	<i>National IPC Policy & Guidance Update (joint event with Care Home Nurse Network) NHSE: National Infection Prevention & Control Manual DHSC & UKHSA Helen Whately MP, Minister for Social Care</i>
July 2023	Education & Training in IPC (joint event with Care Home Nurse Network) IPC Lead, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation & Providers: Harrogate and Wales IPC Workbook Project. Lecturer and researcher Salford University, IPC Outbreak Management tool research project
<i>September 2023</i>	<i>Oral Care (joint event with Care Home Nurse Network) QNI Innovations project, including Oral Health in Care Homes Project, CQC Smiling Matters Report UKHSA IPC Update</i>



Event Registration



This graph represents the number of staff that register on each event.

The average number of registrations we have is 238.

What we have achieved so far...

- Put members' questions directly to DHSC
- Platform for Helen Whately, Minister of State for Adult Social Care, to address members
- Share Harrogate Infection Prevention Control Newsletters
- Shared NHSE IPC Short films
- Sent urgent MHRA notifications
- Shared sources for hardship funds
- Encouraged Queen's Nurse applications
- Contributing to National Nursing journals
- Written a special Sustainability newsletter, including blog from care home nurse and links resources and support
- Shared and encouraged applications for QNI Innovation Projects



Impact Survey

We undertook an impact survey during Summer of 2023, 43 responses were returned. This survey enabled us to learn:

- Demographic of our network members
- What they have found most useful about IPC Champions Network
- What events were most useful
- Changes in practice as a result of being a member
- Any improvements we can make

Which region do you work in?

There was representation across all regions of England, a majority from East of England, North East and Yorkshire, North West and South East.

We can use this data to target areas with least representation when encouraging new members.

What best describes your job role?

A majority of those who completed the survey were in management, leadership or nurse roles (38/43) 88% Other roles included Community IPC Practitioner, Health Protection and Social Care Trainer.

This is not representative of the network as a whole. Data from the membership indicates job roles including:

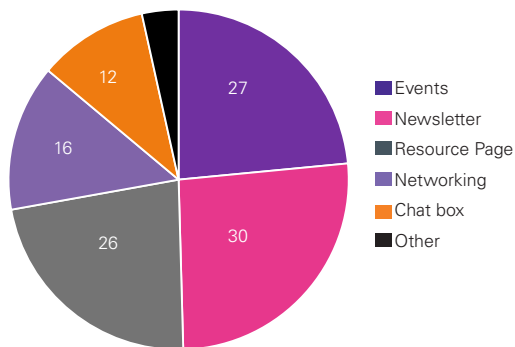
- Ancillary staff
- Community staff
- Care home staff
- Lecturers

Which sector do you work in?

A majority work in either Adult Social Care or Community Nursing/ Local Authority supporting Adult Social Care (34/43) 79%, 4 work in ICB/ICS/ Public health and 2 work in General Practice. 3 stated 'other'.



What have you found to be most useful about the IPC Champions Network?



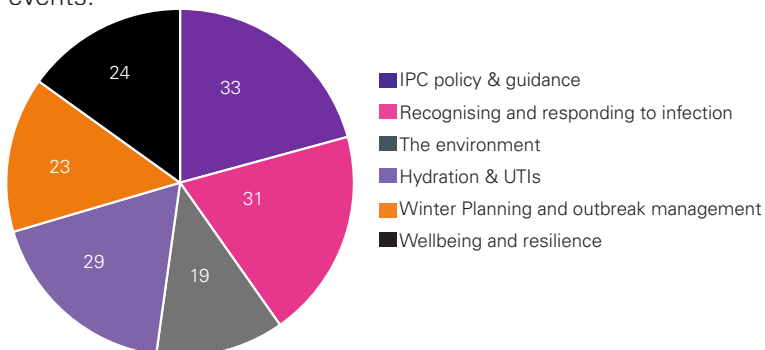
This evidence illustrates that the format works for membership.

Other comments included members that had recently joined or were attending their first event so felt unable to comment at this time.

Which events have you found most useful?

Themes from events come from members, however, this evidence will help with continued planning for future events. The themes for 2024 events will be planned to support staff and will include: Parasitic infections & outbreak management and Catheter care & antimicrobial resistance.

The results of this also illustrate importance of the QNI acting as a conduit between national organisations such as DHSC, UKHSA, NHSE, IPS & CQC and grassroots staff working in ASC. 77% of respondents identified IPC Policy and Guidance updates as most useful event. We will continue to invite representatives from these organisations to network events.





Examples of change in practice

Themes of changes in practice included:

- Implementing workbooks/ training (21%)
- Updating policies and procedures (19%)
- Sharing resources (19%)
- Setting up own networks (9%)
- Having support/networking (14%)

“ I have used the content of the events and adapted to our policies. Regarding the responding to infection, this is now on the agenda for our IP&C Champions meetings. Hydration and UTIs is part of induction training for all new care staff. Staff wellbeing is taken on board to help staff to stay healthy, especially during outbreaks.

Other comments include:

- *‘Keeping up-to date with latest IPC information and sharing relevant information to Care Homes.’*
- *‘Set up hydration stations within the home to help keep residents and staff hydrated.’*
- *‘Implemented knowledge into training packages, and policies.’*
- *‘Useful to get the ideas perspective of others and that you are not alone!’*
- *‘Give me the confidence to advise junior staff about the importance of practicing and preventing the spread of infection primarily washing of hands and use of PPE.’*
- *‘I have set up a local IPC interest group to share good practice, audits and policies, this has been invaluable to the group.’*

Are there any improvements we could make to enhance the network?

These comments will help inform us of future planning of IPC Champions Network. Suggestions included:

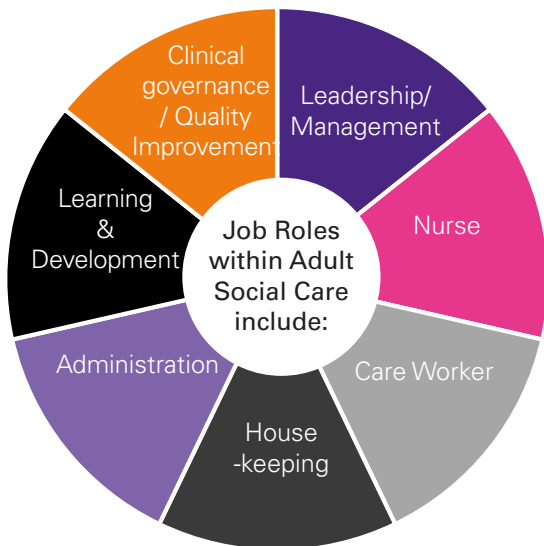
- *‘Having chat function outside of meeting’*
- *‘Having more social care representation and focussed’*
- *‘Offer network to a wider audience outside of Adult Social Care’*
- *‘Dedicated training sessions’*
- *‘Offer a platform for IPC secondments and jobs’*
- *‘Have more events’*



- *'I am new to this network but have found it to be very informative'*
- *'continue being led by what the group requires and national guidance'*
- *'JUST RIGHT AT THIS TIME'*
- *'No, feel the content has been right'*
- *'timing is good, information provided at good levels for engagement.'*
- *'I think so far everything has been great and I know I can contact someone if I have any queries.'*

These comments give us the confidence that the network is working for members.

Membership Data



This illustrates a wider workforce demographic than results of impact survey that just picked up the leadership, management and nurse roles.



Other roles from outside Adult Social Care include:

IPC/Public Health Specialist	Forensic Nursing	Journalist
Specialist Nurse Roles see below	Sexual Health Advisor	Librarian
Student	Podiatrist	Lecturer
Clinical Governance/ Quality Improvement/ Patient Safety	Senior Leadership	Researcher
Occupational Health	Learning & Development	Long Covid Patient
Paramedic	Communications Roles	Independent/ Self-employed practitioners

Specialist Nurse Roles identified through membership data include:

District Nurse/ Community Nurse	Practice/GP Nurse	Health Visitor
Children's/School Nurse	Homeless & Inclusion Health	Tissue Viability
Sickle Cell/ Thalassaemia	Mental Health Nurse	Learning Disability Nurse
Parish Nurse	TB Nurse	Addiction
Cardiac/Heart Failure	Respiratory	MS Specialist Nurse
Parkinson's Disease Nurse	Diabetes Nurse	Palliative Care/End of Life
Continence Nurse		

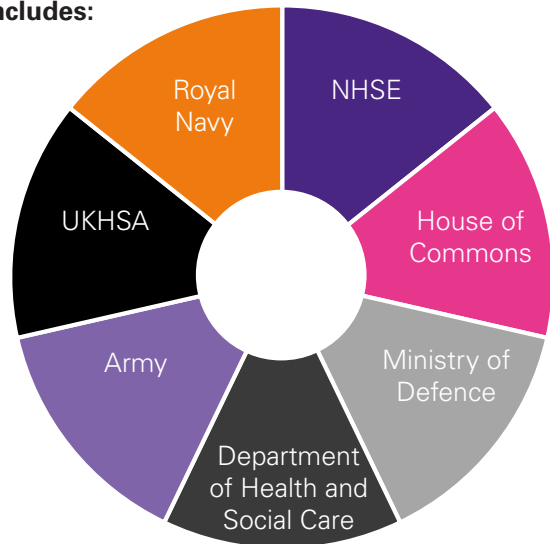


A vast majority of members are from Adult Social Care; other organisations include:



*including Community Health, Hospital, Integrated, Mental Health and Ambulance

Public office includes:





All UK Countries are represented, including the Isle of Man and Guernsey - we also have overseas membership from:



What's next for the IPC Champions Network

Now we have secured further funding from DHSC until October 2024 we will:

- Use evidence from our network members and feedback to continue sharing expertise and practice in our events and newsletters.
- Network members value the resources and access to best practice as well as the general support the network provides
- The QNI has a strong network of nurses working in and supporting Adult Social Care including a Care Home Nurse Network, however, with funding from DHSC we have been able to give a wider reach not only to nurses but support staff that work in Adult Social Care.
- The QNI has built close links with DHSC, UKHSA and NHSE this has enabled us to build a platform for information sharing in a timely and rapid manner. Evidence from our members has shown that this support has been key in the success of this network.

Summary

The QNI IPC Champion Network has continued to grow in numbers, demonstrating the need for this network. Results from impact survey has shown the format of the IPC Network (event followed by newsletter) works for members.

Evidence shows themes for events from members have been most useful.

The results of this also illustrate the importance of QNI acting as a conduit between national organisations and staff working in ASC.

Data from our membership database shows we have a diverse membership not only working in Adult Social Care but roles and organisations that support Adult Social Care. This evidence will enable the QNI to consider and apply for future funding to support the wider community workforce.



1A Henrietta Place
London W1G 0LZ

020 7549 1400

www.qni.org.uk

