



Department
of Health &
Social Care



The
Queen's
Nursing
Institute

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Champions Network

IMPACT REPORT 2024



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

We promote excellent nursing care for everyone, where and when they need it, provided by nurses and their teams with specific skills and knowledge.

How do we do it?

- ✦ Through our national network of Queen's Nurses, who are committed to the highest standards of care and who lead and inspire others
- ✦ By funding nurses' own ideas to improve patient care,
- ✦ By publishing research into nursing practice, workforce and education, improving knowledge and standards
- ✦ By influencing government and policy makers, and campaigning for investment in high quality community nursing services
- ✦ By offering educational grants to enhance nurses' clinical knowledge
- ✦ By helping working and retired community nurses in times of financial need or life crisis
- ✦ By linking up working and retired nurses for regular telephone contact, with our Keep in Touch project
- ✦ By offering a free listening service for all nurses working in the community and social care.



Background and Summary

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) has commissioned The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) 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 staff who have an interest in IPC.

Deliverables requested from 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.
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

IPC Champions Network Growth

The QNI IPC Champions Network has continued to grow in numbers, demonstrating the need for this network.

At last report (October 2024) we have 2232 members.

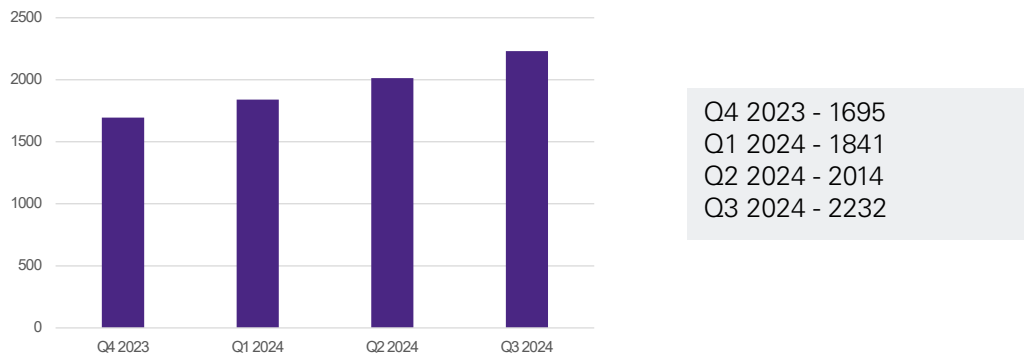
“ I am delighted to be able to work with the QNI to establish the IPC network which will build on the excellent work already being undertaken by colleagues across social care to continue protecting those who need support.

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

Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Deborah Sturdy CBE



Figure 1. Network Growth



Since the launch, membership has grown by about 150 members per quarter, this trend has continued since the last report (November 2023).

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 300 -350 members register (apart from August 2024 where significant drop to 91 registered, however this may be due to summer holidays) and 40 - 60% join. We see some care homes join with several staff, therefore numbers attending may be higher than those recorded overleaf.

Date	Number Registered	Number Attended
January 2024	341	160 (47%)
April 2024	332	130 (40%)
June 2024	308	170 (55%)
August 2024	91	57 (63%)
October 2024	395	195 (49%)



Following each event a newsletter is sent, this includes links to a summary of the event, presentations with speakers' permission and any updates and resources. [Click here to read previous summaries.](#)

QNI host an IPC Champions webpage this includes links to joining network, events, summary of past events and live resource list. [Find out more here.](#)

The QNI IPC Champions network website pages have had 15570 views since the launch in October 2021, and a further 2706 since the last report in November 2023.

Feedback from network members is collected from meeting chat, Mentimeter and a network wide survey.

Network Events

Date	Theme
January 2024	IPC Projects Vivaldi Social Care: Reducing Infection and Improving Lives Harrogate IPC Workbook Project, Collaborative Project with Public Health Wales QNI Update by Crystal Oldman DHSC ASC Update by Prof Deborah Sturdy
April 2024	Parasitic Infections UKHSA: Scabies Bed bug Foundation: Bed bugs
June 2024	Identifying and Reducing UTIs Public Health Wales: UTI surveillance in care homes (Wales): A pilot NHS Dorset: Dorset Hydration Project Leeds Community Trust: Urinary Tract Infections
August 2024	To Glove or Not To Glove Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust: Hand Hygiene, Gloves on, gloves off Galanos House, Royal British Legion: Implementing the gloves off campaign
October 2024	National Policy and Guidance Updates Keynote Speaker: Dr Chris Whitty, CMO England Updates from UKHSA and CNO Adult Social Care



What we have achieved this year

- We continue to put members questions directly to DHSC and invite DHSC to speak directly with network members
- Share Harrogate Infection Prevention Control Newsletters and updated Care Home and Domiciliary Care resources
- Contributed to QNI Sustainability webinars for Adult Social Care
- Continue to build IPC resource page, ensuring this is a live page and all resources are up to date and relevant
- Attend regional IPC networks to raise awareness and encourage membership to QNI IPC network
- Contribute to UKHSA Adult Social Care IPC Guidance update
- Share IPC related research opportunities to network

Mentimeter Survey

We undertook a Mentimeter survey at the end of August 2024 event about 50 members engaged with Mentimeter or used chat box where members did not have access to use Mentimeter.

This enabled us to learn:

- What members have found most useful about IPC Champions Network
- What events were most useful
- Changes in practice that have been made as a result of being a member
- Any topics/ themes members would like at future events
- Any improvements we can make

What they have found most useful about IPC Champions Network

This evidence illustrates the format works for the network membership.

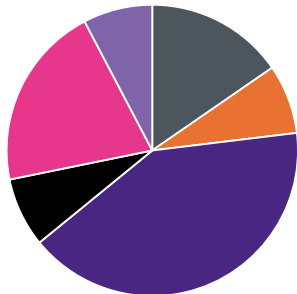


Figure 2. Most useful about the network



Events (23), Newsletter (4), Event Summaries (13), Resource Page (9), Networking (4), Chat box (1).

Figure 3. Events that were most useful for members



National guidance and updates (6), IPC Projects (3), Parasitic Infections (3), Identifying and Reducing UTI's (8), To glove or not to glove (16), All (3).

- National Guidance & Updates
- IPC Projects
- Parasitic Infections
- Identifying & Reducing UTIs
- To Glove or Not to Glove
- All

It is worth noting that members that completed this question may not have attended all events or read summaries, especially if they are new to the network.



Figure 4. Improvements in practice as a result of being a member

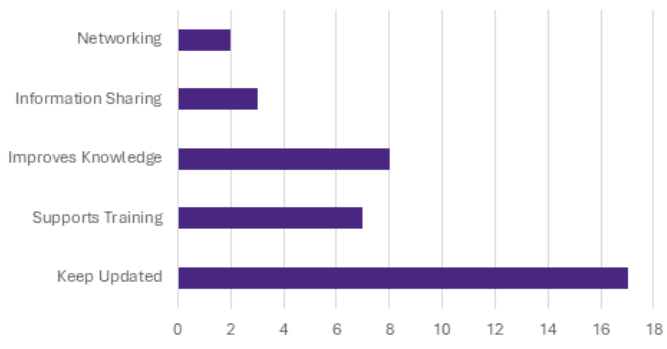


Figure 5. Any topics/ themes members would like at future events

Themes from events come from members, however, this evidence will help with continued planning for future events. The infographic below shows suggested themes/ topics members would like to see at future events

4. What themes/ topic would you like to see at future events?

38 responses





Using this evidence, the suggested themes for 2025 events will include:

- Wounds and wound infections
- Winter planning/ outbreak management
- Vaccination and immunisation including myth busting
- RSV and Acute respiratory infections
- Environmental cleaning/ cleaning products/ decontamination of equipment
- Research and Innovative technology

Any improvements can IPC Champions Network make

The overarching comment from this question was more sessions throughout the year (7).

Other suggestions included 'involving CQC' (2) and a resource where members can submit issues for advice or suggestions (1).

Network feedback

Feedback from previous questions also included comments such as:

- *'I think that the meeting is the right length and punchy enough to keep people engaged, well done!'*
- *'Really enjoy these sessions.'*
- *'Have more sessions please through the year, would love to hear more informative sessions and inputs.'*
- *'Keep up the good work.'*
- *'Only joined recently but so far doing a great job, more events would be good.'*
- *'It is all excellent, thank you so much for all that you do.'*
- *'All events are good and to the point, newsletters are helpful. Meetings are short and snappy which is great.'*

“ Keeping up to date means I'm able to share this with my fellow managers and the management, therefore, identifying things to target and focus on and not having to find the information in various places.

Member feedback



Summary

The QNI IPC Champion Network has continued to grow in numbers, demonstrating the need for this network.

Network members value the resources and access to best practice as well as the general support the network provides.

The QNI IPC Champions Network has built close links with DHSC, UKHSA and Harrogate Infection Prevention and Control, as well as local and regional IPC specialist teams and Adult Social Care Providers. 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.

Results from the Mentimeter 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.

It is hoped, with funding that the QNI IPC Champions Network can continue to grow offering support and guidance for its members, showcasing innovative projects to support IPC in the workplace and timely updates to ensure Adult Social Care remains at the forefront of IPC practices.

[Click here to find out more about the IPC Champions network.](#)



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