Creating synergy in paediatric nursing through networking – achievement and challenges

Fiona Smith
Adviser in Children’s & Young People’s Nursing, Royal College of Nursing, United Kingdom
Co-ordinator Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe
Content

• Establishment, goals and purposes of Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe Network (PNAE)

• Challenges, opportunities, outputs and impact of collaborative working across Europe

• Work in progress and future work planned

• Learning from each other - potential cross border and international activity?
PNAE
Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe

Established 2002

- a regional grouping of the International Association of Paediatric Nursing

- brought together professional nursing organisations for nurses working with children and young people in Europe

- adopt the same goals and purposes as IAPN and apply them in Europe
32 counties across Europe have joined .... E.g. Slovenia, Belgium, Netherlands, Croatia, UK, Ireland, Sweden, Romania, Greece, Poland ....

Some countries do not have a national paediatric nursing association ....
- In this case a group of paediatric nurses in a country linked to their national nursing association can participate in the network

Links also established with associations beyond Europe
Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe Network – who and what are we and how do we operate?
The Associations (PNAE) ……

- Meet twice a year and hold congresses
- Rotate meeting places, includes visit to children’s hospital/centre
- Members lead on particular work items and communicate by email, teleconference and skype
- Communication updates sent every 12 months to all Professional Nursing Associations across Europe and organisations we link with i.e. EFN, ICN
We seek to..........

• to ensure that children, young people and families across Europe are guaranteed the quality of nursing care they have a right to receive

• Establish and communicate a clear vision for paediatric nursing across Europe

• Promote common standards in paediatric nursing practice, education, management and research
Activities

- Defined a paediatric nursing education & competence framework
- Raised the profile of paediatric nursing and children’s healthcare in Europe
- Lobby to ensure transferability of qualifications across Europe
- Share information and resources, such as
  - Standards for practice
  - Recommended staffing ratios in paediatric wards/units
  - Educational curricula and learning resources
Position statements

- Definition of a paediatric nurse
- Regulation of paediatric nurses across Europe
- Paediatric nurse education across Europe
- Staffing levels in paediatric and neonatal areas
- Paediatric and Neonatal Service and Clinical Quality Indicators
- Reducing medication errors
- Ethical & professional practice for the European Paediatric nurse
- Re-registration and Continuing Professional Development requirements of Paediatric Nurses in Europe
Quality of care & Patient safety
Paediatric and Neonatal Service and Clinical Quality Indicators

Developing a position statement

• Survey undertaken November 2007- February 2008

• The aim was to
  - agree a statement about service and clinical quality indicators
  - to facilitate sharing of best practice and examples of audit and patient satisfaction tools currently used across Europe

http://www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/371351/Paediatric_and_Neonatal_Service_and_Clinical_Quality_Indicators.pdf
Evidence clearly links safe staffing levels and safe skill-mix to improved patient outcomes.

‘More nurses mean fewer avoidable deaths. More nurses mean better care’

Dr Peter Carter, Chief Executive and General Secretary

Pediatric Nurse Staffing and Quality of Care in the Hospital Setting

Karen M. Stratton, PhD, RN, CNA

- Respiratory tract infections
- Gastrointestinal tract infections
- Central line infections*
- Bloodstream nosocomial infection*
- IV infiltrations*
- Medication errors*
- Parent/family complaints*
- Child trained* / agency*
Who cares for children?

19 countries have specific paediatric nurse education

15 Post-graduate education (after completing ‘General Nurse’ training)

5 Direct entry – Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy and United Kingdom

8 Nurses caring for children are qualified solely as general nurses – Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Romania, Malta, Slovenia, Switzerland
## Education Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>1 module (ECTS 30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>1 year (post registration) (90 credits, 3 semesters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>2 years (post registration–incl. Masters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Content – theoretical & practical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours = varied (100-2,300 hours)</th>
<th>Hours varied (120-2,300)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of</td>
<td>Student placements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• nursing, paediatric nursing</td>
<td>• Neonates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and nursing and health sciences</td>
<td>• Maternity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• natural sciences and medicine</td>
<td>• Maternal and infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• humanities and social sciences</td>
<td>protection (community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• law, politics and economics</td>
<td>health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Paediatric wards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mental health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A nurse who has successfully completed a recognised course of study and practice experience in the nursing care of infants, children and adolescents / young people

A nurse is a person who has completed a nursing education programme and is qualified and authorised in her or his country to practise as a nurse

International Council of Nurses

Demonstrates agreed level of
- practical competence
- theoretical knowledge
and appropriate values and attitudes

Regulation & registration
Re-registration and continuing professional development

Developing a position statement

• Survey undertaken during 2011

• The aim was to establish an agreed set of minimum statements concerning re-registration, revalidation and continuing professional development to ensure safe and up to date practitioners.
The PNAE position statement states:

- Children and adolescents (young people) have the right to be cared for by appropriately qualified and educated nursing staff.

- Children and their families/guardians have a right to know that the nurse who cares for their child is specifically educated and competent to do so i.e. one who has successfully completed a recognised course of study and practice experience in the nursing care of infants, children and adolescents / young people.
Registration of nurses?

In your country is there a national register of nurses held by a regulatory or professional body?

YES = 22  NO = 2

Specific register for paediatric nurses?

Yes = 5  No = 17
Continuing professional development

• Nurses required to provide evidence of professional development and maintenance of knowledge, skills and competences in order to re-register and continue to practice as a nurse?

YES = 13  NO = 10  YES/NO = 1
Minimum standards

• A national register for nurses, including paediatric nurses must be in place in each country across Europe

• There must be a mechanism to distinguish paediatric nurses on a national register if there is not a specific register for paediatric nurses

• Members of the public must be able to search the national nursing register to see if a paediatric nurse is on the register and qualified to practice

• Paediatric nurses must be required to re-register at periodic intervals – each country should determine the frequency but this should be as a **minimum every 5 years**
Paediatric Nurses must be required to complete a specified number of hours theoretical updating relevant to your practice in order to re-register – each country should determine the number of hours but this should be a **minimum of 50 hours over 5 years**

Paediatric nurses must be required to complete a specified number of hours in practice in order to re-register – each country should determine the number of hours but this should be a **minimum of 500 hours over 5 years**
Benefits of European and International alliances

• Ability to influence and shape policy, education, service provision and practice in own countries

Examples:
• Belgium – laws, regulation & protection of title
• Eastern European countries – paediatric specific nurse education programmes emerging
“We all face the biggest leadership challenge of all of our careers.”
More to do……

- So what other issues and work items should we be tackling?
- Is there scope for potential cross border and international activity?

Information about PNAE can be found at:

Thank you

Contact details:
Fiona Smith
RCN HQ, 20 Cavendish Square, London
W1G 0RN
Tel: + 44 (0)20 7647 3740
Fiona.smith@rcn.org.uk