

QNIS Manifesto



2016 Scottish Parliament Elections

In order to realise a vision of more people in Scotland staying well for longer, and when in need of care being supported at home as far as possible, then more community nurses are needed and they must work in new ways. Nurses care across the lifespan, in partnership with family carers, working together across sectors and this will only happen with enough staff with the right skills for their caseload, supported by enabling technologies which mean that complex integrated care can be effectively coordinated with the individual and family at the centre.

The Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS) is a small charity, promoting excellence in community nursing to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Scotland. Our purpose is to enable nurses who work in Scotland's communities to be the very best they can be.

We are about **CONNECTING** people who share a passion for high quality nursing in the community, **EQUIPPING** nurses with the education, skills and confidence they need to help people achieve better health and wellbeing and **CHAMPIONING** nurses' roles as advocates for quality health and care.

CONNECTING

1. Enabling technology to improve person-centred care

We frequently hear reports from community nurses about a disconnect between IT systems: nursing systems not speaking to GP systems, not speaking to social care systems. This leads to increased time spent on phone calls, paperwork, and entering the same information multiple times. As a consequence, less time is available to spend face to face with individuals and families. We must accelerate the development of connected IT systems across Scotland. This is essential to support integrated health and care delivery, eliminating the replication of data and reducing paperwork, allowing nurses to spend more time with the people they serve. This has been in the planning stages for years and must now be delivered.

Technology which enables people to be part of decisions in their own homes, in real time is central to making person centred care a reality. In some areas, tablets and other technologies have been introduced which enable staff to order equipment, make appointments and record decisions with people in their own homes. The new Scottish Government must commit to funding best practice in enabling technologies for care consistently across Scotland's communities.

EQUIPPING

2. Funding essential skills for high quality community nursing care

At a time of austerity, with pressure on NHS budgets, one of the easiest areas to cut is Continuing Professional Development (CPD). However, if we are to realise the vision of more high quality care at home, there is an urgent need to invest in developing the skills of existing staff.

Currently, many nurses are expected to partly fund their own education. Essential skills for community nursing such as health visiting, district nursing, school nursing and community mental health nursing are core to realising the [2020 Vision](#) where everyone is able to live longer healthier

lives at home, or in a homely setting. Staff must be released to train, and full funding found, to meet the costs of essential education for the NHS workforce. (Planned approach/Strategic approach)

The [Out of Hours Review](#) provides a way forward in providing high quality urgent care. The report highlights the need for further Advanced Nurse Practitioner education. Advanced and consultant nursing roles should be created in every Integrated Joint Board to provide the clinical leadership, supervision and expertise to provide high quality clinical decision making when it is needed, supported by medical colleagues. Funding must be found to invest in the community nursing workforce required to deliver more safe, high quality care at home.

CHAMPIONING

3. Involving Scotland's communities in decisions which affect their health and wellbeing

There must be an emphasis on prevention, enabling more people to live well for longer. Environment plays a central role in health and wellbeing. We welcome the [Fairer Scotland](#) and [Healthier Scotland](#) initiatives and ask that the [Place Standards](#) are given due consideration in every planning decision.

The recently published [Audit Scotland update on Community Planning](#) highlights the pivotal role of community planning in transforming public services in Scotland. Scottish Government guidance has been clear that relationships between the Community Planning Partnerships and Integrated Joint Boards are crucial in order to help achieve national health and wellbeing outcomes. With increased involvement from healthcare, improved community spaces will lead to a more appropriate environment for improving the health and wellbeing of those who need it most.

As recommended by the [Audit Scotland report](#), we must “*ensure local communities have a strong voice in planning, delivering and assessing local public services*”, and for those whose voices are seldom heard, that advocacy is provided by those who work most closely with them such as community nurses.

