Association of British Paediatric Nurses
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Committed to promoting the development of children's nursing through evidence based information about practice and education

Press release – embargoed until 00.00hrs 10th September 2026

Association of British Paediatric Nurses marks Roald Dahl Story Day on 13th September 2026 highlighting the role of Roald Dahl Nurses– A model for the future of holistic children's healthcare

For decades, children's nurses have understood something that healthcare systems continue to learn, treating a condition is not the same as caring for a child.

Children and young people living with complex conditions often navigate multiple healthcare teams, treatments, appointments and services throughout their lives. Alongside managing their child's health conditions, families frequently find themselves

- coordinating communication between professionals,
- advocating for their child's needs,
- supporting education,
- managing the emotional impact of illness and
- preparing for future transition to adult services.

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) is recognising the extraordinary contribution of Roald Dahl Nurses, specialist children's nurses who champion a model of care that places children, young people and families at the centre of every decision.

Established through Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity[1], there are now more than 250 Roald Dahl Nurses working across over 85 NHS Trusts and Health Boards throughout the United Kingdom, supporting more than 50,000 children and young people living with complex conditions.

Working across hospitals, community services, schools and primary care, Roald Dahl Nurses provide specialist clinical expertise whilst helping families navigate healthcare systems that can often feel overwhelming and fragmented.

More than clinical care

Children with complex conditions do not experience healthcare in isolated episodes. They experience it as a journey which may involve multiple specialties, repeated admissions, investigations, treatments, educational challenges, emotional pressures and major life transitions, all impacting on the child and family's quality of life.

Roald Dahl Nurses provide a vital link between these services.

[1] Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity – What We Do, Our Impact, Professional Development Programme, Family Support Services. https://www.roalddahlcharity.org/

They coordinate care, improve communication between professionals, advocate for children and families and help ensure that care is delivered in a way that is both developmentally appropriate for the child and child and family centred.

For many families, a Roald Dahl Nurse becomes a trusted point of contact, helping them feel less isolated, more informed and more confident in managing their child's condition.

Their work demonstrates that holistic care is not simply an aspiration. It is something that can be achieved when healthcare professionals are empowered to work alongside, as partners in care with children and families rather than around them.

Supporting the future direction of the NHS

The recently published NHS 10 Year Health Plan in England[2] places significant emphasis on prevention, personalised care, reducing health inequalities and delivering more care closer to home.

These principles have long been embedded within the Roald Dahl Nurse model.

By working across hospital and community settings, supporting care coordination and helping children access the right services at the right time, Roald Dahl Nurses demonstrate how joined-up, family-centred care can improve both outcomes and experiences.

Evidence from the programme has shown benefits including improved care coordination, reduced emergency attendances and hospital admissions, improved experiences for families and increased efficiency across healthcare systems.

As healthcare becomes increasingly complex, specialist nursing roles that bridge services and provide continuity of care are becoming more important than ever.

A profession built on science and humanity

For future children's nurses, the Roald Dahl Nurse programme represents an inspiring example of what nursing can be.

Children's nursing is built upon clinical knowledge, evidence, skills and technical expertise. However, it is equally built upon communication, advocacy, leadership, compassion and partnership.

Roald Dahl Nurses embody and deliver these principles every day.

They support children not only through illness and treatment but also through education, emotional wellbeing, family relationships and transition into adulthood.

[2] NHS 10 Year Health Plan for England.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6888a0996478525675738f3a/fit-for-the-future-10-year-health-plan-for-england-executive-summary.pdf

They demonstrate that nursing is about far more than delivering interventions. It is about helping children and families navigate some of the most challenging moments of their lives whilst reducing the feeling of being alone.

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses calls on healthcare leaders across the UK to:

- Continue investing in specialist children's nursing roles across hospital and community settings.
- Recognise the value of holistic, family-centred models of care.
- Strengthen coordination and communication between services supporting children and young people.
- Support leadership, innovation and professional development opportunities for children's nurses.
- Ensure more children and young people living with complex conditions can benefit from specialist nursing support.

Jessica Semedo, Roald Dahl Transition Nurse Specialist and Association of British Paediatric Nurses member says:

> *"A diagnosis may belong to one child, but its impact is shared by the whole family. Parents, siblings, education, friendships, finances and future plans can all be affected by the realities of living with a complex condition.*
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> *For many families, the journey can feel overwhelming. Hospital appointments come and go, professionals change and services often work in different places and at different times. Roald Dahl Nurses help bring those pieces together, ensuring families feel supported, heard and never alone in navigating their child's care.*
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> *"Roald Dahl Nurses are much more than specialist clinicians. We are advocates, educators, leaders and care coordinators. We support children clinically, but we also support their education, emotional wellbeing, transition to adult services and access to community resources.".*
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> *For student nurses considering a career in children's nursing, the Roald Dahl Nurse programme is a reminder that nursing is both science and humanity. Clinical expertise will always matter, but so will compassion, curiosity, leadership and partnership.*
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> *The NHS 10 Year Plan calls for care that is more personalised, joined up and delivered closer to home. Roald Dahl Nurses have been demonstrating that model for years. The challenge now is ensuring that more children and families can benefit from it.*
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> *We believe every child living with a complex condition and their family would benefit from having a Roald Dahl Nurse."*

Notes for editors

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses is the oldest children's nursing association in the world, established in 1938, with members spanning clinical practice, education, leadership and research.

The term child refers to infants, children, young people and young adults up to 25 years of age

The ABPN recognises that primary and community services, as well as child public health and mental health services, including school nurses and health visitors also have a key role in supporting children, young people and families.

Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity is a UK-wide charity supporting children and young people living with serious, lifelong and complex medical conditions. There are currently more than 250 Roald Dahl Nurses working across over 85 NHS Trusts and Health Boards throughout the United Kingdom. Roald Dahl Nurses support more than 50,000 children and young people. Roald Dahl Nurses work across hospital, community, education and primary care settings. Roald Dahl Nurses provide specialist clinical expertise, care coordination, advocacy and emotional support for children, young people and families.

Website: www.abpn-uk.com
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