

ABPN Presidential Address 2026: 87th Annual General Meeting,

Association of British Paediatric Nurses

Welcome to the 87th Annual General Meeting of the ABPN. It's a privilege to be your President and to have worked with so many members as well as the Officers and Trustees of the Association over the past year. We have been busy and I thank everyone for their time and contributions.

In last year's address, I talked of the need to be reflexive and proactive in influencing positive change for babies, children, young people and their families.

Sometimes, the world we live in can feel overwhelming. Seemingly everywhere we look, much of the news we read or the conversations we have with colleagues, friends, and family reflect challenges, difficulties, shortage of resources, children unable to reach their full potential because of ill health, poverty, war, climate change, neglect, violence, and lack of opportunities.

I am not aiming to downplay the very dire situation that so many children experience but if we let this overwhelm us, it can feel like there is nothing we can do. However, as individuals we can make change happen every day, sometimes in small seemingly insignificant ways. As members of our communities, workplaces and as members of the Association of British Paediatric Nurses, we can work together to be part of the change that is needed.

I've been a member of the Association for many years, and through my involvement I have learned new skills, made new friends, become a network of people who are willing to share their expertise, knowledge and learn from each other. I've benefited hugely from my membership of the Association and, importantly, it's given me an opportunity to give something back to the Association, other members and to society.

In a small way, I've been able to add my views, for example, to position statements, and through contributions to discussions. My views are often tentative when I am commenting on aspects of practice or policy that I am not familiar with, perhaps less tentative when I feel more confident about the ground I am standing on. The views of members are always welcome – we don't expect everyone to be 'an expert' whatever that might be. We all bring something of ourselves, our experiences and what we think is important.

Most people won't believe I am shy; my natural place is sat at the back of the room, hiding and wearing a big hat as a disguise. That doesn't quite work as President. For a few minutes, I'm stood in front of you, sharing some thoughts, wearing the Presidential medal (or jewel as it is fondly known). But don't be fooled into thinking that you need a posh title or years of experience for your ideas to be valuable to the Association.

As a member of the Association you've already made a big decision – you've got involved. By getting actively involved in our working groups, consultations, webinars and so many other ways you can help bring about change. You can help turn

conversations and practice in positive directions and that's a got to be a good and rewarding thing.

Prof Bernie Carter, President, Association of British Paediatric Nurses, 24th March 2026

Chair's Report for the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) for the 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 24th March 2026.

The warmest of welcomes to all attending this prestigious 87th ABPN AGM and our very best wishes are sent to members who cannot attend the AGM in person or virtually.

It is an honour and a privilege to present my first Chair's report to the President, Trustees, Officers and members of Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN).

Since being appointed in October 2025 I have written, with the support of ABPN Communications Officer Fiona Smith, to key individuals and organisations to introduce myself as Chair and to highlight the work of the ABPN. The responses received from these initial contacts have been extremely encouraging and have resulted in suggestions and invitations for positive future collaboration.

ABPN key role changes:

I am delighted to advise that Kath Evans has been supporting me as ABPN Deputy Chair and add that Kath has been very busy in this role since her appointment. Kath has attended important events relating to the healthcare of babies, children and young people on behalf of ABPN.

There have been additional changes in the key personnel of ABPN since the AGM in 2025. This is due to ABPN terms of office being completed, or that ABPN officers have had to step down from their roles due to personal circumstances. Our sincere thanks go to Caron Eyre, the previous Chair, Simon Hardcastle-Waugh Finance Officer and Georgina Ferguson-Glover the ABPN Social Media Lead. Grateful thanks are also extended to Robin Hyde who completes his term of office as ABPN Honorary Secretary, and we are very pleased to note that Robin will continue as an ABPN Trustee.

We also take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Professor Mark Whiting as a new ABPN Trustee.

Additional key roles for ABPN to note are the Interim Membership Officer Fiona Smith and the Acting Finance Officer Norman Long. An advert for the appointment of a Finance Officer is being prepared and will be circulated shortly after this AGM.

Important future changes:

Changes were proposed to the ABPN organisational structure to enable ABPN to modernise and achieve more effective ways of working, in addition to improving governance within ABPN.

A Trustees Board and Executive Board for Governance & Developments (G&D) meetings will be established (see ABPN Organisational Organogram).

Working Groups will now be recognised as essential committees delivering outputs and benefits for members. Grateful thanks are extended to the Chairs of the three committees and to the members involved in taking their important work forward. New, additional members Jessica Semedo and Bethany Dennis are involved in the Communications and Raising the Profile Working Group, and many other members have expressed a desire to be involved in the Enhancing Membership Working Group. We welcome any additional members who would like to be involved in any of the 3 working groups: Enhancing membership, Policy development and Communications and Raising the Profile Working Group.

ABPN is pleased to confirm the appointment of Sherice Malcolm as the new website lead and the ABPN thanks Sherice for her excellent work in updating and refreshing the ABPN website <https://www.abpn-uk.com/>

ABPN additionally thanks and welcomes Ellie Forbes as ABPN Honorary Secretary and Mary Brady as ABPN Membership Officer, appointments that are to be formally elected later in the agenda.

ABPN workplan and developments since the AGM and World Café in 2025:

1. Following the 2025 AGM and the outputs from the World Café, ABPN published 'A Blueprint for integrated community children's nursing services' which has been shared widely to influence future service developments, planning and policy
2. A review of the membership platform provided by VeryConnect was led by Fiona Smith and the Enhancing Membership Working Group. Subsequently, the Governance and Development Group made the decision not to renew the contract with VeryConnect.

Letters have been sent to members to advise of the changes, including the process for membership subscription payment going forward. The ABPN is endeavouring to cancel recurring payment systems that members may have put in place and will refund any payments that are inadvertently paid during the transition period.

3. ABPN members have been asked to 'Tell us who their children's nurses hero is' and we look forward to receiving members' contributions in preparation for the National Children's Nurses Day 'Celebrating children's nurses' on the 30th of June 2026. Planning is underway with ABPN members for hosting celebratory events across the UK. Further information will be sent to members via electronic communication in due course but we ask that members also check the ABPN website for further details and important updates.
4. Following member feedback regarding ABPN branding and the visibility of 'Celebrating children's nurses', a designer has been engaged to design a modern digital logo that members can use within emails. It is evident that without the tireless enthusiasm and hard work of all those who volunteer for and represent the ABPN, in addition to those who support the ABPN through their membership, the

successes detailed within this report would not have been achieved. A sincere and heartfelt thank-you to you all.

Dr Jean A. Davies Chair of the Association of British Paediatric Nurses.

Deputy chairs Report for the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) for the 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 24th March 2026.

Kath in her role at Deputy Chair, has represented the Association at a number of important national forums, including discussions in the House of Commons on children's continence, education and has attended the Children's Nursing Partnership UK meetings, which will inform the development of the forthcoming Modern Service Framework for Children in England.

Kath has also chaired ABPN webinars with subject matter experts and along with Jean and Fiona has met with Chief Nursing Officers from England and Scotland to ensure the expertise of the children's nursing community informs policy development.

Kath brings perspectives from clinical practice, an acute trust, Roald Dahl Trustee role and ICB setting to the Governance and Development Group.

Kath Evans, Deputy Chair

Honorary Secretary Annual Report – 12th Feb 2026

Period Covering 1st January 2025-31st December 2025

Introduction

As Honorary Secretary to the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN), I am delighted to draft this, my third annual report ahead of the 87th Annual General Meeting of the ABPN scheduled for March 2026. Throughout the reporting period, I have supported Caron Eyre, as Chair of the ABPN G&D followed by Dr Jean Davies, successor as Chair of the ABPN G&D. Meetings of the G & D have taken place approximately quarterly throughout the reporting period via Microsoft Teams as well as a successful development day, face to face, in June 2025.

Summary of Activities

It has been another busy year of activities, change and challenge for the G&D group. During this reporting period, we unfortunately had to say goodbye to Caron Eyre from her officer role as Chair of the ABPN G&D. We welcomed Kath Evans to G&D, and Dr Jean Davies in to the role of Chair, and Kath as Deputy Chair respectively. Further, we unfortunately had to say goodbye to Simon Hardcastle as our Finance Officer and Georgina Ferguson-Glover, Social Media lead/Associate Member. We are grateful to the work of Caron, Simon and Georgina in helping the ABPN continue to deliver its vision on behalf of the membership. Thank you.

1. Editorial Board -Journal of Child Health Care

I have represented the interests of the ABPN at the editorial board meetings for the organisations Journal throughout the year. Where requested, I have brought items back to G&D for discussion with respect to the operations of the Journal however Dr Stephen McKeever, Editor in Chief, and all the editorial board members continue to do an excellent job leading the development of the Journal internationally.

2. Working groups -ABPN

- Enhancing Membership
- Policies
- Communication and Raising Profile

By way of follow up from my last report, the ABPN Working Groups have continued to meet throughout the last reporting period, and have progressed some significant pieces of work on behalf of the ABPN G&D that include, reviewing our membership procedures, as highlighted, in Fiona Smith's Membership Secretaries report. Further, the groups have created information about their work on our webpage, Working Groups and What's Happening.

3. Fit4CYP project

I have continued to represent the interests of the ABPN in an advisory capacity contributing to the work of the Fit4CYP project, led by Professor Sarah Neill and Dr Matthew Carey, at Plymouth University. In doing so, I have been called upon to review project documents and provide comment to these on behalf of the ABPN. The project team have been working across a number of projects to raise awareness and develop an evidence base with regard to understanding more about Childrens Nurses experiences of preparedness for the job. The project group are currently applying for funding to develop the project with the following aim:- To establish whether newly qualified children's nurses in England are adequately prepared to deliver safe care to babies, children and young people, and produce a framework to inform future curriculum and workforce policy.

To conclude, this is my last annual report as Honorary Secretary for the ABPN. It has been a pleasure and honour to hold the responsibilities in this officer role and I wish my successor, Ellie Forbes, all the very best going forward. I look forward to continuing to support the ABPN and its vision and goals, in the capacity of Trustee to the ABPN.

Robin Lindsay Hyde Honorary Secretary Association of British Paediatric Nurses
(ABPN) -Governance and Development Group 12th Feb 2026

Interim Membership Officers Report for the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) for the 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 24th March 2026.

Jim Robinson stood down as ABPN Membership Officer following the AGM in 2025. Fiona Smith assumed Interim Membership Officer on 18th May 2025. Various issues were identified and subsequently highlighted by members in respect of the electronic membership system introduced in 2024. The contract with Very Connect ends on 1st

May 2026. In view of the issues with the electronic system the ABPN Governance and Development Group made the decision not to renew the contract with Very Connect.

An alternative membership system is in place with a transition period planned immediately following the AGM.

Members will receive an invoice for their membership subscription 21-28 days before their membership expires. Members will be able to pay subscriptions by bank transfer or via card payment.

Following the AGM in 2025 students are eligible to receive free membership for the duration of their undergraduate (degree/masters) leading to registration as a children's nurse.

As a result of the ABPN webinar programme the Interim Membership Officer has received enquiries about joining the ABPN membership from paediatric nurses/nurses working with children and young people outside of the UK.

Membership at 31 st December 2025		Membership at 31st December 2024	
Total membership:	338	Total membership:	219
Annual membership:	71	Annual membership:	46
Associate membership	2	Associate membership	1
Life membership	144	Life membership:	145
Fellows	15	Fellows	12
Students	106	Students	19

2025 saw the appointment of 3 Fellows.

The Association Journal is currently accessed by members via the electronic membership system provided by Very Connect. In the future access will be via member only pages of the ABPN website.

The Interim Membership Officer with the ABPN Enhancing Membership Working Group have increased awareness of the ABPN in conjunction with the ABPN Communications and Raising the Profile WG, adjusted application processes in response to member feedback, reviewed member benefits, member categories and made recommendations to the Governance and Development Group regarding future membership categories and associated subscriptions.

Report completed 5th January 2026.

F. Smith

Interim Membership Officer

Finance Officers Report for the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) for the 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 24th March 2026.

Whilst there was an unexpected change of Finance Officer part way through the year, management of the Association finances continued smoothly.

At the end of 2025 the ABPN ended with an excess of income over expenditure.

Membership fees and Journal Royalties were main sources of income.

Annual General Meeting and World café which were held in person, Third party membership management and Journal distribution were most significant areas of planned expenditure.

It was identified that Bank suddenly imposed monthly charges but these were refunded before year end once clarification sought.

Accounts for 2025 have been externally verified, final figures for the year are as follows: -

Current Account

Income for the year 2025	£ 13,765.99
Expenditure for the year 2025	£ 12,690.72
Excess of income over expenditure for 2025	£ 1,045.72
Bank Balance as at 31st Dec. 2025	£ 33,011.09

Business Reserve Account

Balance as at 1st January 2025	£ 15,168.25
Interest Earned	£ 199.36
Balance as at 31st December 2025	£ 5,367.88

We are seeking an interested member to join the Governance and Development Group as new Finance Officer.

Norman Long Interim Finance Officer

2nd March 2026

Communications Report for the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) for the 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 24th March 2026.

Newsletter

Professor Bernie Carter continues to create and edit the fully digital newsletter that uses the software platform (Adobe Express); this helps create a bright accessible newsletter and helps ensure that any images we use are fully credited. The newsletter is distributed directly to members by email and a paper-based (pdf) version is posted

to a few non-digital members. The newsletter is also distributed to non-members by social media, and it can be accessed from the website.

Website

The website has recently been refreshed by the Sherice Malcolm, the New ABPN website Lead. Prior to this the website was updated by Professor Bernie Carter with Fiona Smith assisting to update key pages such as press releases, position statements and webinars information. A member only section of the website is under development. Members are sent an invitation to their personal email address to join the member only section of the website.

The domain name remains the same www.abpn-uk.com

Media activity

Planned and proactive press releases have been cascaded to national broadsheets, health and nursing press for national/international days and in response to key announcements and issues. Press releases are also posted via ABPN social media:

Georgina Ferguson-Glover stood down as ABPN social media lead at the end of 2025, having grown and established ABPN social media routes. We wholeheartedly thank Georgina for her time, guidance and expertise to enable the ABPN to establish a social media presence. In addition to social media routes previously established, an ABPN Instagram account and LinkedIn account was established during 2025. The ABPN social media accounts are now managed by members of the ABPN Communications and Raising the Profile WG as follows:

- Tik Tok: Jessica Semedo and Bethany Dennis
- Instagram: Jessica Semedo and Bethany Dennis
- Facebook: Katrina McNamara
- LinkedIn: Nicola Fielding
- Spotify: Nicola Fielding
- YouTube: Fiona Smith

Member communications and engagement

Members that have provided email addresses receive information about recent developments, documents and opportunities to respond to calls for evidence and research.

The ABPN programme of webinars offers members to acquire up to date information from experts in the field, as well as to contribute to key discussion topics. Attendance and registrations vary – between 40 to over 400 participants.

Prof Bernie Carter, Sherice Malcom and Fiona Smith

