



An Overview of The Association of British Paediatric Nurses Oral History Project

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) Oral History Project was funded by the National Lottery's Heritage Fund as was established to capture, preserve, and celebrate the lived experiences of children's nurses across the United Kingdom as part of the organisation's 85th Anniversary celebrations. The project recognises that the history of children's nursing is not only found in policies, textbooks, or institutional records, but also in the voices, stories, and reflections of those who have shaped and delivered care to children and young people.

The Oral History Project provides a platform for children's nurses from different generations, roles, and care settings to share their professional journeys. Through 103 recorded interviews and narratives, the project documents how children's nursing practice, education, leadership, and advocacy have evolved over time, while highlighting the enduring values that underpin child-centred care from 1950's to current day.

Contributors reflect on changes in clinical practice, family-centred care, safeguarding, technology, workforce pressures, and the social and cultural factors influencing child health. The project also captures how nurses have responded to wider healthcare reforms and societal change, offering insight into resilience, innovation, and professional identity.

The Oral History Project serves several important purposes:

- Preserving professional heritage, ensuring the contributions of children's nurses are not lost to time
- Amplifying nursing voices, particularly those whose experiences may not be represented in formal records
- Informing the future, by sharing lessons learned, challenges faced, and progress achieved
- Supporting education and leadership, providing rich qualitative material for learning, reflection, and inspiration

Importantly, the project reflects ABPN's commitment to recognising the emotional, ethical, and human dimensions of children's nursing, as well as the technical and clinical expertise involved. The narratives highlight the profound impact children's nurses have on children, young people, and families, and the reciprocal effect this work has on nurses themselves.

The Oral History Project strengthens collective memory, professional pride, and intergenerational learning within children's nursing. It stands as both a record of the past and a resource for the future — ensuring that the voices of children's nurses continue to inform, inspire, and guide the profession for years to come.

The project can be found at

https://birmingham.access.preservica.com/index.php?name=SO_240c51dc4-ed5a-4ca8-b38c-46831f21d96c