

## **Press release – embargoed until 00.00hrs 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

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### **International Women's History month - Moving Forward Together!**

During the month of March, the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) pays tribute to the achievements of the women who pioneered the care of children and young people. In particular, we honour the children's nurses from the past to present who have striven to improve the nursing care of children and young people; many of whom have been members of the Association.

In 2024 the ABPN completed an Oral History project 'Honouring our Past', recognising the commitment of children's nurses – many of them women – who have made a difference to children's lives. Over 100 children's nurses took part in the project between the summer of 2023 and July 2024, recording their career history and reflections of notable changes in practice, training/education and services provided for infants, children and young people. Many participants also highlighted concerns and aspirations for the future.

The collection of recordings encompasses the training and education programmes undertaken between the 1950's and 2020's, with participants from across all of the nations and regions in the UK. In total over seven decades of children's nursing are encapsulated in the recordings.

The project was undertaken as part of the ABPN 85th anniversary celebrations and was supported by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund aimed at raising awareness of children's nursing by collecting narrative histories from a range of individuals depicting the breadth of career journeys children's nurses can have now and in the future.

The oral history recordings are available to access through the Library of Birmingham. The link to the archive is

[https://birmingham.access.preservica.com/index.php?name=SO\\_a89754a0-7421-4713-9b16-9c8304744d9c](https://birmingham.access.preservica.com/index.php?name=SO_a89754a0-7421-4713-9b16-9c8304744d9c)

The Oral History Project highlighted a common theme of children and young people's care being central to the thinking of participants regardless of when they trained whether in the 1950s or 2020s.

## The ABPN believes that

- Every child and young person has a right to have their specific needs recognised and addressed<sup>1,2</sup>
- Infants, children and young people should receive care from nurses that have the child specific knowledge, skills and competencies to meet their unique needs in age-appropriate facilities, at home or closer to home in community and general practice settings<sup>3</sup>
- Child field specific pre-registration undergraduate education programmes, as well as specific post registration education is crucial to equip nurses to meet the needs of children and young people across all settings, including at home or closer to home in community and general practice settings<sup>4,5</sup>

“As someone who contributed my oral history as well as being privileged to be one of the people who collected the stories, I can honestly say that children’s nurses have contributed enormously to the health, care and wellbeing of children and young people. The stories told provide a fascinating account of both what has changed dramatically in the past 70 years as well as those things that remain at the core of children’s nursing”

Professor Bernie Carter, President

## Notes for editors

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.

The ABPN is a network of children’s nurses with a wide membership of experts in clinical practice, education, leadership and research. It is the oldest children’s nursing association in the world, established in 1938.

[www.abpn-uk.com](http://www.abpn-uk.com)

Blue Sky: @abpn-childnurse.bsky.social

Facebook: Association of British Paediatric Nurses

Tik Tok: @ABPN\_ChildNurse

YouTube: @ABPN\_ChildNurse

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<sup>1</sup> See ABPN Position statement on Children and Young People’s rights

[abpn\\_position\\_statement\\_children\\_and\\_young\\_peoples\\_rights.pdf](#) and ABPN Background briefing on Children and Young People’s Rights [abpn\\_background\\_briefing\\_children\\_and\\_young\\_people.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> UN Declaration of Human Rights 1948 see <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/>

<sup>3</sup> See ABPN Position statement on Workforce planning and nurse staffing

[abpn\\_position\\_statement\\_workforce\\_planning\\_and\\_nurse\\_staffing-final\\_nov\\_2024.docx](#) and ABPN Background briefing on workforce planning and nurse staffing [abpn\\_workforce\\_planning\\_and\\_nurse\\_staffing\\_background\\_briefing\\_paper-final\\_nov\\_2024.docx](#)

<sup>4</sup> See ABPN Position Statement on Children’s Nurse Education

[abpn\\_position\\_statement\\_nurse\\_education\\_final\\_24\\_november\\_2024.pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> See ABPN Background Paper on Children’s Nurse Education

[abpn\\_cn\\_education\\_background\\_paper\\_final\\_22nd\\_november\\_2024.pdf](#)