

Press release – embargoed until 00.00hrs 12th June 2025

14th June 2025

World Blood Donor Day

Each year, World Blood Donor Day raises awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and recognises and thanks the millions of volunteer blood donors all around the world for their lifesaving gifts of blood.

Blood is needed by children with severe anaemia, often resulting from illness, children who have been the victim of accidents, as well as those who require surgery or cancer treatment.

Every single blood donation is an amazing gift to people, including children, who need it for life saving treatment, with a single donation helping to save or improve the lives of up to 3 people.

As Children's Nurses, we have the privilege of witnessing the profound, life-changing impact that blood donations have on the children and families we care for. Whether it's a child recovering from major surgery, receiving treatment for cancer, or overcoming severe anaemia, the gift of blood often marks a turning point in their recovery. These moments of transformation, restored energy, reduced pain, and renewed hope are only made possible by the generosity of donors. Blood donation isn't just a medical act; it's a gift of life and possibility for the youngest and often most vulnerable members of our society.

In order to meet the needs of hospitals and patients across the UK, blood and transplant services have estimated a need of nearly 5,000 people to give blood every single day.

With blood stocks critically low in the UK, potential donors are urged to consider blood donation with more information available at <https://www.blood.co.uk/>

The ABPN believes that

- Every child and young person has a right to have their specific needs recognised and addressed^{1,2}

¹ 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](#)

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

- Infants, children and young people should receive care from nurses that have the child specific and specialist knowledge, skills and competencies to meet their unique needs in age-appropriate facilities, at home or closer to home in the community as appropriate³
- 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^{4,5}

“Many of us do voluntary work, contributing to and giving something back to society. One of the most tangible ways we can contribute is through becoming a blood donor. Ever donation is valuable. And, for those people who are not eligible to donate, they can still contribute by spreading awareness of the need for blood donations”.

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

Blue Sky: @abpn-childnurse.bsky.social

Facebook: Association of British Paediatric Nurses

Tik Tok: @ABPN_ChildNurse

YouTube: @ABPN_ChildNurse

³ 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](#)

⁻⁴ See ABPN Position Statement on Children’s Nurse Education
[abpn_position_statement_nurse_education_final_24_november_2024.pdf](#)

⁵ See ABPN Background Paper on Children’s Nurse Education
[abpn_cn_education_background_paper_final_22nd_november_2024.pdf](#)