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Association of British Paediatric Nurses Marks UN World Health Day 2026 with Call to Strengthen Child Health Services

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) is marking United Nations World Health Day 2026 by calling for renewed national and global commitment to protecting and improving the health of children and young people. The focus of this year's events is Together for Science and launches a year long campaign celebrating the power of scientific collaboration to protect health.

World Health Day, celebrated each year on 7 April, highlights the importance of accessible, equitable healthcare for all. This year, the ABPN is drawing attention to the critical role children's nurses play in safeguarding child health, supporting families, and strengthening health systems across the United Kingdom and beyond.

Nurses are often the first point of clinical contact for children and their families. From neonatal care and community health services to specialist hospital units, they provide expert care, early intervention, and ongoing support that can shape lifelong health outcomes.

“Children's health is the foundation of a healthy society,” says Katrina McNamara for the Association of British Paediatric Nurses. “On World Health Day, we recognise the dedication of children's nurses and emphasise the urgent need to invest in the workforce, training, and resources required to deliver high-quality care for every child.”

The ABPN highlights several priorities for 2026:

- Strengthening the children's nursing workforce to address staffing shortages and rising demand.
- Investing in training and professional development to ensure nurses are equipped to meet increasingly complex healthcare needs.
- Expanding community-based child health services to improve early intervention and preventative care.
- Supporting the wellbeing of healthcare professionals to maintain a resilient and sustainable workforce.

The organisation also emphasises the importance of collaborative efforts between governments, healthcare providers, educators, and communities to ensure that all children—regardless of background—have access to safe, high-quality healthcare, which fits firmly within this year’s focus on scientific collaboration.

“Every child deserves the best possible start in life,” Katrina McNamara added. “By supporting children’s nurses and strengthening child health services, we can build healthier futures for families and protecting the health of children across the UK and around the world.”

The Association encourages policymakers, healthcare leaders, and the public to use World Health Day as an opportunity to recognise the vital contribution of children’s nurses and to recommit to improving health outcomes for children through collaboration in practice, research, education and service delivery.

About the Association of British Paediatric Nurses

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) is a professional organisation dedicated to advancing excellence in children’s nursing across the United Kingdom. The association supports nurses through advocacy, professional development, research, and collaboration to improve health outcomes for infants, children, and young people.

Media Contact: Association of British Paediatric Nurses Email:
abpncommunications@gmail.com

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 the oldest children’s nursing association in the world, established in 1938. Our wide membership includes experts in clinical practice, education, leadership and research.

www.abpn-uk.com

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