

Your Association - A Year in Review 2014

'Advocacy' is a much used but, perhaps, somewhat abstract and complex concept in relation to the core principles of nursing care. The dictionary defines it as an 'active process of pleading for, supporting or recommending' a cause; in nursing, this is largely unrequested, borne out of an inferred trust to act in the best interests of our patients. True advocacy, though, is more than just 'speaking up for others'; rather we are bound to analyze their needs and wishes, consider their perspective and empower through understanding and representation. Whilst Florence Nightingale did not directly consider the concept of advocacy, she was determined to promote the rights of individuals to care provided by educated nurses and so, through strong leadership, achieved a transformation in the status of nursing. These lessons are no less valuable today as we strive to provide equitable and high quality, compassionate care in a healthcare environment whose very structure is under question. I was reminded of this last week when I attended the Nursing Times Awards, I was privileged to hear Helene Donnelly, formerly of Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust, speak with conviction and passion of the role of nurses in ensuring patients' needs remain central to the provision of care. As clinical nurse specialists we have the ability to drive and lead change, and to ensure the value of nursing is represented. We can and should contribute to patient focused insights and have a responsibility to share and support best practice through collaborative and innovative working.

Over the last year ARNS has been working hard to raise the profile of respiratory nursing and fight the corner for those living with respiratory conditions. The Executive Committee aims to represent you, our members, to influence policy makers, ensuring that the impact of nursing, particularly the value of specialist nursing, is heard and recognised. We are all clinical nurses, working on a daily basis in specialist respiratory roles but to be effective advocates for respiratory nurses and patients we must also understand the perspective of those we are representing. Our work this year has fallen into a number of broad categories that we wanted to share with you:

Engaging with and representing ARNS members through:

- Members' surveys
- Networking via social media platforms & annual conference
- Supporting members to share work by writing for publication
- Monthly emails & regular newsletters
- Representation on respiratory forums
- Discussion via twitter chats on National Report on Asthma Deaths (NRAD), e-cigarettes, IPF, pulmonary rehabilitation and spirometry

Representing the voice of respiratory nursing through participation in:

- All party parliamentary group (APPG) inquiry into respiratory deaths
- National inhaler project
- Cross-organisation discussions on new inhaler devices
- APPG on e-cigarettes



- Royal Society of Medicine asthma audit tool advisory board
- British Thoracic Society (BTS) Ambulatory Pulmonary Embolism care guidelines group
- BTS National COPD/pulmonary rehabilitation audit steering group & PREM working group
- NHS England working group on quality assurance for diagnostic spirometry
- BTS consultation on home oxygen guidelines
- NICE consultation of COPD guidelines update
- BLF singing for breathlessness implementation group
- Representation at European level on European Respiratory Nurse Association steering group

Supporting training and education for respiratory nursing:

- Collaborative working with other respiratory organizations & education providers
- ARNS End of Life Course
- Quality assured diagnostic spirometry
- Interstitial Lung Disease/Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis training
- Provision of Respiratory Nurse Career Development and Members educational bursaries
- Provision of respiratory nursing focused annual conference

Raising the profile of Respiratory Nursing through collaborative working, campaigning and media presence:

- Joint working with Royal College of Nursing, British Lung Foundation, British Thoracic Society, Public Health England, NHS England, Royal College of Physicians, Florence Nightingale Foundation, Primary Care Respiratory Society-UK, Education for Health, Nursing Times, pharmaceutical industry
- Media comment on APPG report on respiratory deaths, National Report on Asthma Deaths, e-cigarettes statement, ban on smoking in cars, plain packaging for cigarettes
- Presence on social media via website, twitter and facebook – supporting information sharing and networking
- Supported BLF campaigns for smoking in cars ban, IPF week, European patients charter for IPF, COPD week
- Comment pieces across a number of nursing publications
- Editorial input into respiratory content for Nursing Times and Journal of Community Nursing
- Representing respiratory nursing at celebration of nursing and healthcare at No 10 Downing Street
- Contributing to judging Nursing Times Respiratory Awards

Supporting respiratory & nursing research through:

- Participation in VANGUARD steering group (Value Added Nursing Gains Advantage in Respiratory Nursing Domains)
- BLF research strategy group

ARNS has over 1000 members now, including many nurses delivering innovative services for respiratory patients. Share your views and experiences – join our growing respiratory community on twitter, check out our facebook page or contact us if you have examples of good practice you would like to share. Help us to be true advocates for respiratory nursing so that collectively we can and will influence the direction of respiratory care.

Rebecca Sherrington
Chair, ARNS Executive Committee



A Year in Review of ARNS 2014 - Supporting us to make a difference

The ARNS Executive Committee has taken incredible steps forward this year with the intention of not only being the voice for our members but also for our respiratory patients. It started at the beginning of 2014 forging relationships with our stakeholder colleagues to encourage more collaborative working which has gone from strength to strength. Each member of the committee has been involved with projects over the year, working towards our own strategy and raising the organisations profile to ensure that the respiratory voice is heard nationwide.

ARNS has worked hard to ensure that we are ever present in the world of social media and we have had great success with our new website and the introduction of Twitter chats, as well as having a presence on Facebook. We are extremely grateful to you, our sponsors, for your continued support and encouragement in enabling us to carry out the majority of this hard work; it is greatly appreciated. You will see in more detail below of some of our work that we have undertaken throughout this year.

Looking towards another successful year, the committee with its own drive and enthusiasm is privileged to have your continued encouragement and very much look forward to another year of your valued support in raising the profile of ARNS nationally.

'Advocacy' is a much used but, perhaps, somewhat abstract and complex concept in relation to the core principles of nursing care. The dictionary defines it as an 'active process of pleading for, supporting or recommending' a cause; in nursing, this is largely unrequested, borne out of an inferred trust to act in the best interests of our patients. True advocacy, though, is more than just 'speaking up for others'; rather we are bound to analyze their needs and wishes, consider their perspective and empower through understanding and representation. Whilst Florence Nightingale did not directly consider the concept of advocacy, she was determined to promote the rights of individuals to care provided by educated nurses and so, through strong leadership, achieved a transformation in the status of nursing. These lessons are no less valuable today as we strive to provide equitable and high quality, compassionate care in a healthcare environment whose very structure is under question. I was reminded of this last week when I attended the Nursing Times Awards, I was privileged to hear Helene Donnelly, formerly of Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust, speak with conviction and passion of the role of nurses in ensuring patients' needs remain central to the provision of care. As clinical nurse specialists we have the ability to drive and lead change, and to ensure the value of nursing is represented. We can and should contribute to patient focused insights and have a responsibility to share and support best practice through collaborative and innovative working.

Over the last year ARNS has been working hard to raise the profile of respiratory nursing and fight the corner for those living with respiratory conditions. The Executive Committee aims to represent you, our members, to influence policy makers, ensuring that the impact of nursing, particularly the value of specialist nursing, is heard and recognised. We are all clinical nurses, working on a daily basis in specialist respiratory roles but to be effective advocates for respiratory nurses and patients we must also understand the perspective of those we are representing. Our work this year has fallen into a number of broad categories that we wanted to share with you:

Engaging with and representing ARNS members through:

- Members' surveys
- Networking via social media platforms & annual conference



- Supporting members to share work by writing for publication
- Monthly emails & regular newsletters
- Representation on respiratory forums
- Discussion via twitter chats on National Report on Asthma Deaths (NRAD), e-cigarettes, IPF, pulmonary rehabilitation and spirometry

Representing the voice of respiratory nursing through participation in:

- All party parliamentary group (APPG) inquiry into respiratory deaths
- National inhaler project
- Cross-organisation discussions on new inhaler devices
- APPG on e-cigarettes
- Royal Society of Medicine asthma audit tool advisory board
- British Thoracic Society (BTS) Ambulatory Pulmonary Embolism care guidelines group
- BTS National COPD/pulmonary rehabilitation audit steering group & PREM working group
- NHS England working group on quality assurance for diagnostic spirometry
- BTS consultation on home oxygen guidelines
- NICE consultation of COPD guidelines update
- BLF singing for breathlessness implementation group
- Representation at European level on European Respiratory Nurse Association steering group

Supporting training and education for respiratory nursing:

- Collaborative working with other respiratory organizations & education providers
- ARNS End of Life Course
- Quality assured diagnostic spirometry
- Interstitial Lung Disease/Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis training
- Provision of Respiratory Nurse Career Development and Members educational bursaries
- Provision of respiratory nursing focused annual conference

Raising the profile of Respiratory Nursing through collaborative working, campaigning and media presence:

- Joint working with Royal College of Nursing, British Lung Foundation, British Thoracic Society, Public Health England, NHS England, Royal College of Physicians, Florence Nightingale Foundation, Primary Care Respiratory Society-UK, Education for Health, Nursing Times, pharmaceutical industry
- Media comment on APPG report on respiratory deaths, National Report on Asthma Deaths, e-cigarettes statement, ban on smoking in cars, plain packaging for cigarettes
- Presence on social media via website, twitter facebook and linkedin – supporting information sharing and networking
- Supported BLF campaigns for smoking in cars ban, IPF week, European patients charter for IPF, COPD week
- Comment pieces across a number of nursing publications
- Editorial input into respiratory content for Nursing Times and Journal of Community Nursing
- Representing respiratory nursing at celebration of nursing and healthcare at No 10 Downing Street
- Contributing to judging Nursing Times Respiratory Awards

Supporting respiratory & nursing research through:

- Participation in VANGUARD steering group (Value Added Nursing Gains Advantage in Respiratory Nursing Domains)
- BLF research strategy group

ARNS has over 1000 members now, including many nurses delivering innovative services for respiratory patients. Share your views and experiences – join our growing respiratory community on twitter, check out our facebook page or contact us if you have examples of good practice you would like to share. Help us to be true advocates so that the voice of respiratory nursing is heard nationwide.

Rebecca Sherrington
Chair, ARNS Executive Committee

