LEADING CARE: Supporting and Strengthening the Ward Sister’s role

SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES
(in order of appearance on the conference programme)

6th October 2010
**Professor Martin Bradley – Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

Prior to taking up post as Chief Nursing Officer in November 2005, Martin was Director of the Royal College of Nursing, Northern Ireland. His background is in general and psychiatric nursing, nurse education, and administration in the Health and Social Services.

He is a mentor for the King’s Fund Nurse Leadership programme, a member of the steering committee of the Florence Nightingale Foundation and the Florence Nightingale Museum at St Thomas’ Hospital, London. He is a past member of the UK Central Council for Nurses and Midwives, a former member of the BBC Broadcasting Council, and Director of the Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health.

Within the Department, he chairs the Serious Adverse Incident Group. In conjunction with the Chief Medical Officer he co-chairs the “Confidence in Care” project group and leads the working groups on Professional Regulation and Stakeholder involvement. He also is the current chair of the All Ireland Cancer Nurses group.

He has a particular interest in community development, public health, targeting health and social need, primary care and practice development. He is a visiting Professor of Nursing at the University of Ulster and in 2000 was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing for his services to Nurse Education and Higher Education.

In November 2007 he was invited by the Commonwealth Secretariat to address the Commonwealth Conference in Uganda on “Health - Realising the Potential.”

He is married with two children.

**Charlotte McArdle – Executive Director of Nursing / Director of Primary Care and Older People, South Eastern HSC Trust**

Charlotte McArdle started nurse training in 1988 at Beaumont Hospital, Dublin. She qualified in 1991 and worked as a Staff Nurse there for a year. In 1992, Charlotte moved to Belfast to work in Musgrave Park Hospital where she remained until 1998. During this time she was awarded a Florence Nightingale Scholarship to undertake Research in 1994 and in 1996 Charlotte completed a BSc in Health Studies.

In 1998, Charlotte moved to the Royal Group of Hospitals to take up a Ward Sister post where she achieved the Nursing times/Foundation of Nursing Studies Leadership Award in 1999. Charlotte also completed a MSc in Nursing at Queen’s University, Belfast in 1999.

At the end of 1999, Charlotte moved into senior management at the Royal Group of Hospitals and remained in senior management posts until 2004 where she was appointed Deputy Director of Nursing at the Royal Group of Hospitals and in 2007 appointed Director of Primary Care, Older People and Executive Director of Nursing in South Eastern Trust.

**Mary Hinds – Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency**

Mary Hinds is Director of Nursing and Allied Professions in the Public Health Agency whose functions include, Health Improvement, Health Protection and reducing inequalities; this work is developed in partnership with Trusts, HSCB, community and voluntary groups.
Mary began her career as a nursing auxiliary in the Mater Hospital and went on to complete her nurse training there. She has worked in a variety of health care settings including Accident and Emergency in both the Mater and Lagan Valley hospitals. She went on to open Lindsay House children's home, a respite facility for children with learning difficulties, as well as working for a period as a Nursing Officer at the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. Mary has held the position of Director of Nursing in the Mater Hospital, Belfast and prior to her appointment to the new Agency was the Director of the Royal College of Nursing in Northern Ireland.

**Bronagh Scott – Director of Nursing and Clinical Development, Whittington NHS Hospital**

Prior to moving to London, Bronagh held senior nursing posts in Northern Ireland, the most recent being the Director of Nursing and Director of Older Peoples Services in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust from 2007–2010. Previous to this, Bronagh was Director of Nursing and AHPs and Deputy Chief Executive of United Hospitals Trust from 2004-2007 and Deputy Director of Nursing at the Royal Hospitals Trust from 2002-2004.

At the request of the Chief Nursing Officer, in 2009 Bronagh agreed to Chair the Steering Group for Leading Care – and is delighted with the full involvement, commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by ward sisters across Northern Ireland to ensure the success of this work.

**William McCormick – Trade Union Side Officer, Belfast HSC Trust**

Prior to his current appointment, William was Co-ordinator European Projects at South and East Belfast HSS Trust, leading the United Kingdom input to the Carma and Mepese health and social care research projects. This work culminated in the development of guidelines for the European Commission and was presented at conferences throughout the European Union.

Previous to that he worked on various European and research projects including the EPIC project developing a framework for assessment of the health needs of older people.

His clinical career has focused on the Community Sector, holding various appointments within the greater Belfast area.

William is a member of the Royal College of Nursing Northern Ireland Board, the DHSSPS KSF Regional Leads Group, the Belfast Trust Widening Participation Group, and the Belfast Trust Joint Negotiating Forum. He is also Chair of the Belfast Trust Widening Participation “Getting In” sub-group and Area Commissioner for St John Ambulance.

**Marina McCarney – HR Learning and Development Manager, Belfast HSC Trust**

Marina is the lead role for KSF and the Personal Contributions Framework (annual staff appraisal process); a member of the NI Widening Participation Agenda Forum and HPMA Innovation award winner; and leads on honorary contract and work experience placements and staff learning and assistance to study policies for the Trust. Prior to this, Marina was the Management Development Consultant and Learning Team Manager at Greenpark legacy Trust.
Previously, Marina worked across the UK in a number of roles within leadership, management and organisational development across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Marina is a qualified Aromatherapist Clinician, Professional Performance Coach and has studied Post Traumatic Stress counselling and management under Dr Noreen Tehrani. She has worked with Avon & Somerset Constabulary in interview skills under PACE training programme; and Court Prosecution and Witness Preparation training at Subscription Services Ltd. Marina enjoys time with friends and family, Ikebana floristry, writing poetry, and any form of dance as leisure pursuits.

**Maeve Hully - Chief Executive, Patient and Client Council**

Since 2009, Maeve has been Chief Executive of the Patient and Client Council, an organisation which provides a powerful and independent voice for people on all aspects of Health and Social Care.

Maeve is a registered nurse with over 15 years experience working in palliative care. Maeve has also worked as a health visitor and a community paediatric nurse.

**Carolyn Kerr – Deputy Director of Nursing, Northern HSC Trust**

Carolyn has been working as Deputy Director of Nursing for the past 3 years.

Previous to this post she worked as Assistant Director of Nursing in legacy United Hospitals Trust.

Her clinical background is in perioperative practice. She worked in Theatres in the Royal Group of Hospitals for 14 years in a variety of clinical, educational and leadership roles.

**Olivia Wilson**

Olivia qualified in 2000 following her training in Anglia University Essex. Her first staff nurse’s post was in Addenbrooks Hospital Cambridge.

Olivia was appointed to the role of ward sister in Craigavon hospital in 2005 and then to the Belfast Trust in 2007, her current position.

Her background has always being acute and emergency medicine. She has a specialist degree in diabetes care and a post grad in Health Service management. At present Olivia is undertaking a master’s pathway with Queens University Belfast. Her ambition is to become an Advance Nurse Practitioner for Emergency Medicine in the Belfast Trust (currently this post does not exist in Northern Ireland).

Olivia enjoys cooking, running, body combat and spends a lot of time with her family in Athlone. Her major dislike in life is lazy people and untidiness!
Marie Crossey – Ward Sister, Southern HSC Trust

Marie commenced her nurse training in 1990 at Southside College of Nursing and spent the majority of her placements in Lagan Valley Hospital in Lisburn. On completion of training in 1993, Marie worked as a Staff Nurse in Acute Medicine in The Royal Victoria Hospital until 2004. At this stage, she transferred to the Mater Hospital where she initially worked as a Staff Nurse and then as a Ward Sister in the Stroke Unit.

In January 2007, Marie commenced her current post as Ward Sister of the Assessment and Rehabilitation Ward in Lurgan Hospital. Marie has recently completed a Bsc Hons Degree in Specialist Practice Nursing in Older People.

Cathy McCusker – Senior Professional Officer, NI Practice and Education Council

Cathy McCusker is the Senior Professional Officer for Professional Development at the Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery (NIPEC).

Cathy was appointed to her current post in 2006 and has led on a wide range of projects. The most recent of which have been development of a competency profile for nurses and midwives promoting the mental health and well being of children and young people and the Leading Care Regional Ward Manager Project.

Cathy qualified as an RGN in 1985 and RM in 1987. Prior to joining NIPEC, Cathy has worked as a Senior Manager in the Royal Victoria Hospital and as a Management Development Consultant in Beeches Management Centre. She was also seconded to NIPEC as Project Manager on Development Framework Project from 2004-2006.

Cathy completed a Bsc Hons Professional Development in Nursing and a Masters in Business Administration both at the University of Ulster.

Helen Wallace – Midwifery Ward Manager, South Eastern HSC Trust

Helen Wallace is the midwifery ward manager of the Home from Home alongside midwifery led unit in the Ulster hospital Maternity and has recently been appointed as the South Eastern Trust coordinator for Downpatrick Stand alone midwifery led unit.

After completing her general nurse training in Ards Hospital, Helen transferred to the Ulster Hospital, to undertake midwifery training in 1983, where she has worked ever since.

Helen has obtained both a post registration Diploma and BSc(Hons) in professional studies in Midwifery and has had 2 publications on the subject of cultural aspects of breast feeding. During her career, Helen has been a Staff Midwife, Labour Ward Sister and Labour Ward Manager.

However Helen’s passion lies in promoting normality in Childbirth and in 2007 she had the opportunity to take up the challenge of developing a midwifery led service at the Ulster Hospital. Home from Home has been very successful, far exceeding any target anticipated based on established units across the UK. In December 2009 Home from Home was declared the winner in the NCT NI Maternity and Family Awards for services providing birth environments designed around women’s needs. Helen was also a finalist in RCN Nurse of the Year 2010 for her work in developing the Home from Home.
Colin Thompson – Chair, NI Kidney Patient’s Association

Colin Thompson has been attending Belfast City Hospital as a renal patient since 1986. In December 1999, he commenced Haemodialysis at the BCH Dialysis Unit due to the onset of chronic kidney disease. Following a failed kidney transplant in 2001, he was one of the first patients in Northern Ireland to benefit from the new Home Haemo program introduced in 2002.

He has been Chairman of the Northern Ireland Kidney Patients' Association since 2007 and received a successful kidney transplant in January this year.

Michelle Bryson – Ward Sister, Western HSC Trust

Michelle is Ward Sister for Ward 6 Medical and Surgical Children’s Ward at Altnagelvin Hospital and has been in post for 3 years.

Marie Crossey – Ward Sister, Southern HSC Trust

Marie is Ward Sister at the Assessment and Rehabilitation Ward in Lurgan Hospital.

Tanya Eccles – Ward Sister, Belfast HSC Trust

Tanya is Ward Sister for Elective Orthopaedics at Musgrave Park Hospital and has been in post for 11 years.

Dorothy McGilton – Ward Sister, Northern HSC Trust

Dorothy is Ward Sister for the Tobernaveen Centre at Holywell Hospital and has been in post for 6 years.

Michelle McCartan – Ward Sister, South Eastern HSC Trust

Michelle is Ward Sister of the Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery Ward at Ulster Hospital and has been in post for 2 years.

Brenda Creaney – Executive Director of Nursing, Belfast HSC Trust

Brenda trained at the Royal Victoria Hospital, where she then worked as a staff nurse, before moving to London to undertake Children’s nurse training at the Westminster Children’s Hospital and work as a staff nurse and junior sister. Following a period of specialist practice in Neonatal Care at the Royal London Hospital, Brenda worked as a ward manager, then as lead nurse for Paediatrics at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

Brenda returned to Northern Ireland in 2000 to the Royal Group of Hospitals to the position of Directorate Manager in the Medical Directorate, and in 2002 took up the position of Directorate Manager and Principal Children’s Nurse in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. Most recently she was Co-Director of Child Health and Associate Director of Nursing in the Belfast Trust.
Brenda takes up her post at an interesting time for the nursing and midwifery professions and is looking forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead.

**Alan Corry-Finn – Executive Director of Nursing / Director of Primary Care & Older People’s Services, Western HSC Trust**

Alan registered as a Psychiatric Nurse in 1978 and as a General Nurse in 1981. He has held various professional and general management roles in the East including Charge Nurse at the Ulster Hospital, Nursing Officer at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Senior Nursing Officer at the Belfast City Hospital, Director of Patient Services at Green Park Healthcare Trust and Director of Mental health and Director of Acute Services at Down & Lisburn Trust. He has been an Executive Director of Nursing for eighteen years.

Alan was lead Director at Down & Lisburn Trust for the Safer Patients Initiative working with the Health Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. He has represented Northern Ireland on the Nurse Directors Association. He has also undertaken a number of Management and Leadership Development Programmes including The Top Manager Programme within the King’s Fund and the Federal Institute Leadership Programme in Charlottesville, USA.

Alan acts as a surveyor for CHKS and has done so in England, Scotland and Wales. He had the privilege of being the first surveyor to take the programme to Europe, surveying in Portugal. He is a member of the Accreditation Panel at CHKS in London.

Alan took up his most recent post as Executive Director of Nursing / Director of Primary Care & Older People’s Services in the Western Trust in March 2007. Key current priorities are: Implementing the Strategy for Nursing; Overseeing Nursing care, developing practice and governance; Developing a culture of engagement and a focus on the Development of Performance Management throughout the Nursing and Midwifery family in the Western Trust. He also has the challenge of Reforming and Modernising Primary Care & Older People’s Services; Developing alternatives to hospital admission; Modernising practice and developing strategic alliances across the HPSS and beyond.

He is also Chairman of the Northern Ireland Hospice.

**Elaine Way – Chief Executive, Western HSC Trust**

Elaine joined the health and social services as a graduate management trainee.

After completing the scheme, she specialised in Personnel Management. She was appointed as Unit General Manager for Foyle Community Unit in 1993 and in April 1996 she became the first Chief Executive of Foyle Health & Social Services Trust. In February 2005, she was appointed as Chief Executive of Altnagelvin Hospitals Health & Social Services Trust and then became Chief Executive of the Western Health & Social Care Trust on 1 April 2007.

She has maintained her interest in people management and has been involved in national and regional human resources initiatives. Between 2002 and 2004 her commitment was acknowledged when she was elected as UK President of the Healthcare People Management Association.
Elaine is married to Garrow and they have 2 children, Kathryn (17) and Michael (15). To support Elaine in her career Garrow left paid employment in 1999 to become a house husband and has just recently returned to work.

**Michael McGimpsey – Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in NI**

As Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in the Northern Ireland Executive, Michael is responsible for over 70,000 professionals working in health and social care, ambulance and the fire service and has an annual budget of approximately £4 billion pounds. He took up office on 8 May 2007.

The reform of health and social care has seen 19 health trusts reduce to six (including the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service). The Minister has also introduced further streamlining of the structure to include the establishment of the new Health and Social Care Board, the Public Health Agency, the Patient and Client Council and the Business Services Organisation to replace a number of existing organisations.

The new structures reflect the Ministers desire to drive up the efficiency and effectiveness of health and social care. The Minister has also put public health at the centre of health and social care, to provide a renewed focus on engaging people in their own health as well as looking after those who are ill.

Michael was born in Donaghadee, County Down. An old boy of Regent House, Newtownards, Michael graduated from Trinity College Dublin. A businessman by profession Michael has had interests in building, hotels and the hospitality industry for many years.

Having been elected as an Ulster Unionist Councillor in 1993 to represent the Laganbank ward on Belfast City Council, Michael was elected to the new Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998. Upon devolution of power from Westminster in 1999, Michael was appointed to serve as Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure in the first Northern Ireland Executive.

He enjoys spending time with his family, is a keen gardener and enjoys travelling, walking, reading and watching sport.

**Donna Keenan – Ward Sister, Western HSC Trust**

Donna is currently Ward Sister of the Cardiology Assessment Unit at Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh.

Donna commenced her nurse training in 1985 and has always had a great passion for Cardiology and Intensive Care nursing. After qualifying in 1985, she worked in various staff nurse posts in Altnagelvin and Belfast City Hospitals, before obtaining a ward sister’s post in Tyrone County Hospital in 2001. Donna played a key role in establishing the nurse-led Cardiac ambulance at the Tyrone County Hospital in 2003, and in 2008 led the merger of Medical HDU and CCU at the hospital. In 2009, Donna was instrumental in setting up the nurse-led Cardiology Assessment Unit at the Tyrone County Hospital, and in 2010 won the RCN Nurse of the Year award.
Donna’s key interests have been, and continue to be, Cardiology, continually striving to improve care and services for patients, listening to the team and pushing the boundaries of nursing care.