

ASCN UK Honorary Secretary's Report 2023

Carolyn Swash

It is my honour to be ASCN UK Honorary Secretary in its 10th Year Anniversary. The past year has proven to be just as busy as my first year in post

As mentioned in my last report I have the privilege of looking after the ASCN UK Area Representatives and we are truly lucky to have such experience within the association. Since last conference we have welcomed the following SCNs to represent you all. Louise Baines to the Merseyside and North Wales area, Deborah Keoghane to Mid and South Wales, Marie Mcgrogan to Northern Ireland, Mary Grace Francisco to Wessex and Andrea Thomas to Buckinghamshire area. In addition we thank Karen Dick who has represented the views of PSNG when Claire Bohr has not been available.

Over the past year we have had two in person meetings with the committee and area representatives. We thank both Salts and Clinimed for allowing the association to use their facilities to facilitate these meetings. For those that have been unable to attend in person then attendance has been facilitated via TEAMS. A further meeting is planned for November. The area representatives have been working hard on your behalf to ensure that the standards for care are evidenced based. The updated version will soon be available on the website. The area reps are also crucial to the success of the conference and assist not only in manning the ASCN UK Stand but also help mark both the posters as well as the oral presentations so that each is marked by at least 3 people. In addition they have been key in distributing the 'State of the Nation' questionnaire to hospitals in their area. I would also like to thank Mary Grace for representing ASCN UK at the BJN/ GIN winner's event in September.

Towards the end of 2022 I represented ASCN UK at an All Party Parliamentary Committee Meeting in the House of Commons. One topic in particular that was relevant to stoma care was a campaign entitled 'Bins for Boys'. This campaign was raising awareness of the lack of facilities in men's toilets to dispose of used continence items including stoma pouches but also pads and ISC items.

Within my role this year along with the new governance and education officer was the improvement of the website, this is still a work in progress so your comments in relation to what you want from the website would be gratefully received.

Planning for conference starts at least a year before the event and over the past year to ensure that we hold a conference worthy of your attendance we have started to have regular industry meetings. In addition, we canvas the views of the ASCN UK area representatives to ensure that the conference is representative of your needs.

In relation to the 'State of the Nation' questionnaire that was sent to hospitals via the area reps in the form of an email. I would request that those attending conference this year check their hospital/ clinic area details to ensure that the association has your generic email address listed.

Finally I would like to thank my other committee members for their ongoing support as well as InConference.

