



Association of Stoma Care Nurses UK

## Secretary's Report – Jackie McPhail

2021 continued to be the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, as the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Florence Nightingale was remembered last year and because of the endeavours of the profession it was continued during this year.

The Pandemic has caused us to work, communicate and meet in a virtual way with the Area Reps and Committee.

The Area Reps have continued to represent their members

In November 2020, March and July 2021 we have held virtual Area Rep meetings via Teams. They have been extremely well attended. In addition we have had outside speakers from UA, with Brian Fretwell attending in March as it is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UA. Also in July we had Caroline Bramwell and Carol Kattee update the Area Reps on the achievements and activities of the Ileostomy Association. Wendy Osborne and some of the group members involved with the Skin Terminology presented and discussed the progress on their work. Carolyn Swash gave an update on medication relevant for people with a stoma.

Again further to the feedback from the Areas we acknowledge that some of you were yet again redeployed to other areas within the NHS during the Pandemic in 2021. Whilst some were busy yet again with the Cancer Hubs, set up to maintain surgery for those patients with cancer that required surgery.

The traffic light system in the hospitals set up during the Pandemic, were replaced with green and blue zones for nurses to accommodate in their daily work with elective surgery and those requiring treatment having not previously self-isolated. Although some hospitals have additional purple and yellow zones.

We will be holding the next Area Rep meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and we hope we will be able to attend a face to face meeting in Birmingham. There will be outside speakers from PIPS, Kevin Hodges has agreed to give a presentation updating changes in the NHS. In addition, Libby Herbert is going to update the Area Reps on the activity of Colostomy UK.

As the Secretary of ASCN UK I have collaborated with the team on the Convexity Guidelines. I have also collated updates for the Standards from the committee members and updated references in line with current data. These are now on the website.

My four years are now up! I reflect that the time has flown by, it has been a challenge but a real privilege to work with both the hard working and knowledgeable Committee members and the very supportive and active Area Reps.



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I remember the warm welcome I had at my first Area Rep meeting, which I was responsible for holding. Also the wonderful Honorary Secretary handover which I received from Simon Turley who went on to win Stoma Care Nurse of the Year 2018. I have also had the privilege to work with some very experienced nurses within the committee, Maddie White, Wendy Osborne, Gill Little, Angie Perrin and more recently Andrew Bird and Jennie Burch.

Lastly, thank you so much for voting me into the position in 2017.

**Jackie McPhail, Secretary, ASCN UK**