



Honouring Our Past, Seeing our Future

Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) Oral History Project

Final Summary Report, May 2024

There wasn't a day when I got up and didn't want to go to work

Love making a difference – seeing them smile

The science of nursing is incredible

Children see joy in everything

Sometimes we just need to be there

Nurses go above and beyond

Focus on the diverse dynamic of children

Have a vision and do something about it

The children called me Mr Sister

It's time for wider conversations led by children's nurses

Loved every placement

Love the resilience of children and the bravery of parents

Opportunity to celebrate and flourish

Make children happy as well as well

CYP nursing is special and provides unique care

I've got the best job in the world

There needs to be purpose in everything we do

I worked in the best decade

Introduction¹

The ABPN Honouring Our Past, Seeing our Future Oral History Project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and formed part of the 85th anniversary activities.

The project aimed to:

- raise awareness of children's nursing and the ABPN
- reach new audiences.
- collect narrative histories of children's nursing in 20th and 21st centuries,
- develop our knowledge and skills in oral history.
- create a resource for the future.

Process

The ABPN project commenced in April 2023, with the aim of establishing an oral history collection relating to the education and careers of children's nurses.

The project was managed by a small steering group of the Association's Governance and Development Committee and one of the ABPN Fellows.

The launch of the project identified the project as part of the Association's 85th Anniversary celebrations and took place at an event attended by children's nurses from around the UK. All attendees at the event and all members of the Association were invited to take part in the project. Invitations were sent directly to individuals and those that indicated an interest in the project were followed up up to four times throughout the project. Social media was also used to invite participants to join the project.

Advice was given by the Oral History Society and through the Project Steering Group to develop a consent process and information to share with participants. This identified areas that were anticipated to be covered in the interviews.

Interviews were undertaken via Zoom as this allowed recordings to be made easily, bookings with participants were made at their convenience.

Progress

Over 100 participants have made a recording and the recordings will be placed with Birmingham Children's Hospital archive at the Library of Birmingham in the summer of 2024.

The project has also enabled the ABPN to re-engage with members and attract new members. Some participants have passed project information onto others, highlighting

¹ Selected quotes from the interviews are presented on the front page.

the power of networks and helping the Association to reach new audiences, this includes the use of social media.

The project has facilitated the development of new skills and knowledge, especially in relation to oral history methods and technology, the use of social media and the application of GDPR.

Learning

Setting up an archiving partner took far longer than anticipated, which delayed the anticipated start of recording histories. The challenge in finding a partner was that a number of nursing museums and archives were reducing their collections and wanted far more local information than this UK wide project.

After discussions with a social media consultant it was clear that the Association's social media activity and presence were in need of more work. As this work evolved a new and additional approach to collecting short histories through TikTok was identified and the use of YouTube video clips explored. Social media engagement has increased:

- **TikTok:** https://www.tiktok.com/@abpn_childnursing? t=8lqnc7SJ9Rq& r=1 A ccount was set up on 11th October 2023, there are currently 22 videos, with a total of: 16,647 views, 746 likes and 2036 followers.
- **YouTube:** (https://youtube.com/@ABPN_ChildNurse?si=vtNW8EUtFZwG2tcE) Account was set up on 3rd October 2023. There are currently 9 videos, with a total of: 842 views, 52 likes and 14 subscribers.
- **X:** (@ABPN_ChildNurse) Since mid-June 2023, our follower count has grown by over 200, from 1,185 followers to 1,394.
- **Facebook:** (Association of British Paediatric Nurses) Since mid-June 2023, we have gained over 100 followers, taking us from 181 followers to 296

Given the range of technological skills and knowledge it was recognised that some participants were anxious about using online recording, and it was important to keep the recording process as simple as possible, in a couple of cases where recordings could not be made by a nurse the recordings were made by another person reading the nurse's history (this was made clear in the recording).

Emerging findings

The project allowed ABPN to re-engage with members and this highlighted other opportunities for engagement (the power of networks) allowing the Association to reach new audiences, this includes the use of social media. The project also facilitated the development of new skills and knowledge.

During the whole project we have monitored engagement. We did not collect data on gender although from our own knowledge of contributors we recruited males and females to the project and in terms of other diversity we have covered:

- the four countries of the UK,

- types of training (RSCN only training, RGN/RSCN training, Diploma level training, Degree level training, Enrolled Nurse conversion training, post registration RSCN training and Project 2000 training)
- year they trained as a children's nurse (1957 - 2021),
- those employed and those who are retired as well as those who have returned to practice from retirement.
- those working in clinical, management, government, voluntary, academic, research roles.

Future evaluation

We anticipate that further detailed analysis of the interviews will be undertaken with the aim of engaging with wide range of perspectives, broadly using a narrative interpretative approach, to provide learning that can be shared in different ways.

Further work

There have been other unanticipated outputs from the project such as group work at the launch event and final event which focus on the future hopes for children's nursing. Consideration needs to be given to how this work can be used, it will help underpin the ABPN's future strategy and could contribute to existing work on recruitment and retention of children's nurses by government agencies.