

# The RCN Children and Young People's Diabetes Community



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The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Children and Young People's Diabetes Community (CYPDC) is composed of children's and young people's diabetes nurses from across the British Isles. We, the Core Group of this community, are keen to raise awareness of our *raison d'être* and share some of our recent and current projects. We hope this will generate greater communication with CYP diabetes nurses to identify priority projects and strategies.

RCN forums consist of members working within a similar field coming together for the benefit of the patient and professional group they work within. The CYPDC is one of five communities that come under the umbrella of the CYP Specialist Care Forum to facilitate joint working, wider support and a stronger voice in areas where there are shared themes, such as transition.

The Core Group of the CYPDC comprises eight CYP diabetes nurses who share an agreed purpose and objectives for the coming year. The group's philosophy is to represent CYP diabetes nurses across the UK, raising the profile of and being an advocate for CYP diabetes nursing and CYP with diabetes and their families, and providing them with a voice. This includes collaborative working with other professional bodies, both inside and outside the paediatric diabetes arena, and utilising evidence-based research to inform and share best practice with the desired outcome being that all CYP with diabetes nationally receive appropriate, consistent and optimised care.

A key objective for 2013 is to explore the impact of the Best Practice Tariff standards in order to promote equality of service provision. The National Network and Regional Networks can support teams in achieving this, and have the potential to provide a platform for more

timely and two-way engagement with the CYPDC. The CYPDC is represented on the National Network Leads meetings and also on the National Paediatric Diabetes Audit Project Board. A member of the group has also been nominated by the RCN to represent CYP with long-term conditions on the Department of Health's new Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum.

The Core Group members provide an expert consensus to inform local and national guidance. This has included updating relevant RCN guidelines, reviewing the proposed revisions to the NICE guideline *Diabetes in Children*, reviewing the draft *National Curriculum for the Training of Health Care Professionals who care for Children and Young People with Diabetes Mellitus* for SWEET and working with Diabetes UK to raise the profile of paediatrics, participating in their programme development.

The Core Group is keen for nurses to be aware of the developmental and educational opportunities open to them. To enable them to access these, the CYPDC recently revised and updated their website ([www.rcn.org.uk](http://www.rcn.org.uk)), which provides links and information on specialist education courses, modules and conferences for CYP diabetes nurses.

The Core Group continues to collaborate with the British Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes ([www.bsped.org.uk](http://www.bsped.org.uk)) in organising the multi-disciplinary team programme for their Annual Meeting, including abstract marking, poster tours and presenting. This year's meeting will return to its usual format to facilitate access to the 2-day complimentary programme. We look forward to seeing you there!

Many of you will be familiar with the "Streetwise" range of leaflets produced by Lilly in collaboration with the RCN CYPDC; the

whole range of leaflets has been reviewed and updated by the Core Group for 2013 to reflect current national and international advice and guidelines. We hope that CYP diabetes teams will find this newly available range useful in clinical practice.

The Core Group comprises a small number of highly committed members who are determined to improve health outcomes for CYP with diabetes. Members lead on different pieces of work, but we are in regular email contact and enjoy working collaboratively on projects to help achieve best practice. We meet three times a year, utilising attendance at national diabetes

meetings and conferences where possible. The benefits of being a Core Group member are certainly rewarding. If you are interested in joining us, we would like to hear from you. Our contact details are on the RCN CYPDC website pages. ■

*The Core Group members are: Marie Marshall, PDSN, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital; Carole Gelder, CDNS, Leeds Children's Hospital and Lecturer in Diabetes, University of York; Louise Collins, PDSN, Dudley Primary Care Trust; Grace Parfitt, PDSN, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Newport; Amanda Mackin, PDSN, Leighton Hospital, Crewe; Katie Beddows, PDSN Team Leader, Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport.*

***“The Core Group members are determined to improve health outcomes for children and young people with diabetes.”***



Figure 1. The Royal College of Nursing's children's and young people's field of practice.

Further  
reading

Information and resources from the Royal College of Nursing Children and Young People's Diabetes Community can be found online at:  
<http://bit.ly/1fUHK5x>