

# Local conferences are a popular way to engage primary care nurses

## What we did

What: Conference for primary care nurses  
Who: Primary care sector  
Oxfordshire Training Hub  
Where: South East

We ran a conference for members of the General Practice Nursing workforce in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West. The 'Primary Care Nursing – The Future' conference aimed to inform senior members of the workforce about the General Practice Nursing 10 Point Plan and Future Nurse proficiencies. It included workshops, key note presentations and opportunities for networking.

Participants could choose between two-hour workshops such as supervisor / assessor transition training, leadership, preceptorship, clinical supervision and primary care networks. Presentations were provided by Health Education England, Oxford Brookes University, Oxfordshire Training Hub and the Royal College of Nursing.

We advertised widely, asking for at least one nurse from every Primary Care Network in Oxfordshire to attend. We also sent invitations to Training Hubs in other areas to share learning with their practice nurse leads.

## Learn more from:

<https://oxfordshiretraining.net/careers/nurses/>

## What we achieved

The conference was a great success. There were 75 participants, with every Primary Care Network sending at least one delegate.

Nurses gave positive feedback:

*"This is an excellent opportunity to network and raise enthusiasm for our roles."*

*"Very relevant, gave me lots to think about and has helped me to adapt my long term vision for our service."*

*"The Primary Care Network workshop was the best and most inspiring workshop I've been to in a while."*

33 nurses attended the supervisor / assessor workshop, enabling them to update their mentor qualification.

We also invited nurses to sign up if they were interested in being a mentor as part of our General Practice Nurse mentoring scheme. Ten Lead Nurses agreed to train to become a mentor of the existing workforce.

Senior nurses also indicated whether their practice would be interested in offering a placement for a pre-registration student nurse. Five new practices signed up to learn more about placements.

## What we learnt

This one-off conference was a useful networking and a learning environment for General Practice Nurses. Despite busy schedules, there was a lot of interest and high uptake. The main costs were for the venue and refreshments. Training Hub staff organised the conference as part of our day to day roles.

### Tips

- The time put into organising the conference was worth it as General Practice Nurses felt supported. Including the Future Nurse proficiencies alongside other content made them part of **'business as usual'**.
- **Manage the time** for each speaker and workshop carefully as these can run into the much needed breaks. Networking and learning during breaks can be as useful as formal content.
- Invite nurses to **sign up to take forward activities**. We gained ten senior nurses willing to mentor the existing workforce and five practices to potentially host placements, just by asking.
- There is a real enthusiasm for Practice Nurse Leads to build on their **leadership skills** and enhance their management and team building opportunities. The leadership workshop was the most popular workshop at the conference in terms of numbers attending.
- Nurses want to know more about new ways of working and **organisational structures**. Nurses said that a workshop about Primary Care Networks was enlightening. It helped nurses understand how general practices and nursing staff can work within a Primary Care Network.

