



The Global Network of Public Health Nursing  
*A Network of public health nurses, health visitors and nursing colleagues working in Public Health*

## Constitution

# Constitution of the Global Network of Public Health Nursing

Adopted on

(20/09/2016)

## 1. The name of the network shall be:

The Global Network of Public Health Nursing

## 2 Aims

To establish a Global Network of Public Health Nurses, Health Visitors and Community Nurses in Public Health with a focus on strengthening practice, policy, research, leadership and education in this specialized area of professional work in order to increase access to public health services across the lifespan for families, individuals and communities throughout the world.

### **Objectives**

- To raise the profile of public health nursing practice making this group of professionals more visible and thereby able to influence health policy locally, nationally and globally
- To develop public health nursing practice by sharing the experiences, research, and knowledge of public health nurses, health visitors and others practitioners, educators, leaders and researchers in this area from around the world
- To use the knowledge of those countries with well developed public health nursing practice to support those without such a service so that they might develop their own public health care service
- To develop a shared definition of public health nursing practice that will be able to reflect the culture, professional traditions, social-economic climate and the policy of individual countries throughout the world.
- To develop these objectives the work the Network four pillars will be formed: Research, Policy, Education and Practice

## 3 Powers

In order to achieve its aims and objectives the Network may;

- a) Raise money
- b) Open bank accounts
- c) Establish and maintain a website
- d) Organise courses and events
- e) Work with other groups and exchange information

- f) Employ staff
- g) Apply for charity status
- h) Acquire and manage buildings

## 4 Membership

There will be three types of membership: Individual, Student and Associate membership. All members will have voting rights. Associates will have one vote per Institution/organisation

- a) *Individual* membership is open to any registered nurse/health visitor working or teaching in public health nursing
- b) *Student* membership is open to students who are undertaking qualification in public health nursing or health visiting.
- c) *Associate* membership will be opened to colleges and organisations supporting nurse/health visitors working in public health and is available for (5) faculty members. The organisation will have one vote at the general meeting.
- d) Country and Regional Chapters

The following Regional Chapters may be formed:

African Region  
 Region of the Americas  
 Eastern Mediterranean Region  
 European Region  
 Southeast Asia Region  
 Western Pacific Region

Prior to the formation of Chapters members will be encourage to form State or Country Groups.

The State/Country groups and Regional Chapters will be autonomous

### e) Fees

Members will pay an annual subscription. The level of subscription will be determined by the GNPHN Steering group/Council.

There will be a reduce level of membership for student public health nurses and retired members. There will be **no fee** for members from developing low-income countries

Associates fees will be payable annually at a level decided by the GNPHN Steering group/Council

## 5 Friends of the Network and Donors

- a) Individuals and other health professionals wishing to support the work of the Network may join as a friend. Friends will have access to the Network discussion forums, information sharing and conferences but will **not** have voting rights
- b) The Council will agree the level of involvement and access for Donors on individual basis. All Donors will be acknowledged on the website.

## 6 Governance

Responsibility for the Governance of the Network will lie with the elected Council

- a) The Steering group will step down in 2016 at the General meeting of the Network and be replaced by an Interim Council.
- b) A Council of a maximum of 11 members shall administer the Network. Regional Chapters will nominate a member who will be endorsed at the Formal meeting of the Network. (In the transition period the Interim Council may elect members to bring the membership to nine ensuring that the Regions in active membership are represented.)
- c) One member of the Council **must** come from the current host country and one from the next host country of the International Conference
- d) The Council will be responsible for the Governance of the Network developing appropriate policies
- e) The Formal meeting of the Network will take place every two years at the time of the International Conference.
- f) The Council will convene at least three times a year
- g) If a Council member is unable to join Council meetings on more than 2 consecutive occasions the Council will request the nominating group to elect a replacement member
- h) The members of the Council will elect a Chairperson and other officers as appropriate
- i) A third of the Council will stand down every two years. No member may serve more than six years on the committee (three cycles of the International Conference)

- j) Attendance by 7 of committee members will provide a quorum.

## 7 Finance

- a) The fiscal year of the Network shall begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and end on the 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- b) The Council shall be responsible for preparing the annual financial statements and presenting them to the membership for approval.
- c) Any money obtained by the Network may only be used to achieve the aims and objectives of the Network.
- d) Bank accounts opened must be in the name of the Network
- e) The council will adhere to the financial policy at all times
- f) A minimum of 2 Council members are required to authorize payments

(In the interim period the president and treasurer of the ICHN Ireland will be the authorised signatories)

## 8 Formal meeting

1) Once every two years concurrently with the International Conference a general meeting will be held. The purpose of this meeting will be:

- a) To receive reports from the Chairperson and Treasurer
- b) To endorse new members to the Council from each Regional Chapter
- c) To agree the on going work plan for the Network for the next two years
- d) To record Regional Chapters as they are formed
- e) To formally hand over the GNPHN quilt to the next host Country for the bi annual Conference
- f) To agreed the next host country for the International Conference in 2-3 years time

### 2) Notice

Members will be given a minimum of three months notice of the General meeting.

### 3) Motions

- a) Members may submit motions to be discussed at the General meeting.
- b) All motions must be sent to the Chairperson at least two calendar months before the General meeting.
- c) Motions must be supported by at least **three countries**
- d) All members who have paid their subscription will be eligible to vote

## 9 Alterations to the Constitution

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two thirds of those members present and voting at the General meeting.

The Constitution will be reviewed every four years

## 10 Dissolution

The Network may be dissolved at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at the Formal meeting. In the event of dissolution any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Network/Group with the similar aims/objectives.

This constitution was adopted at the General meeting of the Network on 20/09/2016

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### **Signed by**

Linda Smith

**Steering Committee Chairperson**

### **Foundation Members**

Maura Connolly

Mary O' Dowd

Rosamund Bryar

Kari Glavin

Cheryll Adams

Teresa Obawya

Christina Lindhart

Joanne Downey