

ICHN STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 – 2017

Introduction

The Institute of Community Health Nursing (ICHN) is a professional and educational body representing Community Nursing throughout the State. Founded in 1985, it now represents community nurses associated with the Public Health Nursing service from the areas of clinical practice, education, practice development and management. The ICHN is developing as a modern and dynamic organization, which continues to empower community health nursing by providing a voice through leadership and advocacy. Our members are dedicated individuals who support each other through the ICHN in developing the community nursing profession. The ICHN directs its focus on four key areas

1. Advocacy
2. Practice & Professional Development
3. Research
4. Networking

About the Plan

It is essential that community nursing is represented by a vibrant educational and professional body, especially at this time of significant change. This strategy sets out our ambitions for the future, outlining our planned objectives and our dedication to advancing community nursing. This plan supports community nurses for the model of delivering health care through primary care which aims to meet 90% of people's health and personal social care needs (NSP, 2012).

Mission *'The Institute of Community Health Nursing will provide a professional forum for the Public Health Nursing Service, to identify and respond to the evolving health care needs in the community, working with our members, partners and decision makers'.*

Vision. The Institute of Community Health Nursing aspires to professional excellence in community nursing research, leadership and practice in order to promote health and wellbeing and to deliver the optimum care for individuals, families & communities.

ICHN Values

Leadership - be proactive in identifying and addressing unmet needs in community nursing services.

Quality - be evidence based and solutions focused.

Integrity - be transparent in our communication, decision making and collaboration.

Professionalism - in our relationships with member's, partners and other agencies

Goals

1. To provide opportunities for professional development of members through professional forums, special interest groups and group projects.
2. To provide relevant and timely information to members and to keep them updated on current issues, highlighting relevant publications, to enable them to act as leaders and role models.
3. To advocate for individuals, families and communities by promoting health & well-being and the provision of good quality nursing care at home for everyone when they need it.
4. To influence future policy and directives, in relation to community health care through submissions and representation to government bodies.
5. To grow the ICHN membership in order to create a stronger and more representative voice for community health nursing
6. Maintain financial security
7. To effectively communicate the overall strategy to our members.

ICHN Programmes.

1. Advocacy

Rationale:

The experience and empirical knowledge of community nurses is invaluable. It is vital, that this knowledge is used to influence key stakeholders on issues of common interest. Delivery of community nursing is reconfigured in line with recommendations from new strategies such as ‘*A Strategic Framework for the Reform of the Health Service 2012 - 2015*’ (DOH 2012) and ‘*Healthy Ireland*’ (DOH, 2013) The ICHN will work in partnership with relevant stakeholders while pursuing our vision of professional excellence.

Objectives:

1. Be an authoritative and reliable advocate for members, individuals, families and communities
2. Build awareness and educate other partners in the value of community nursing
3. Work collaboratively with other agencies to strengthen partnerships, to deliver effective community nursing services.
4. Keep up to date with continuing changes in the healthcare system.
5. Influence future policy and directives by making submissions from the ICHN to government bodies.

2. Practice & Professional Development

Rationale:

The ICHN promotes the highest standards of nursing in the community and support professional development and research based practice in community nursing.

Objectives:

1. Provide a valuable resource where members can access up to date information.
2. Enable and facilitate individual members to access continuing education.
3. Promote excellence in professional practice through the work of the Professional Forums and Special Interest Groups.
4. Demonstrate leadership in identifying and addressing unmet professional and practice needs.
5. Acknowledge continuous professional development through recognition/awards.
6. Host annual conference which highlights professional developments in the sector.

3. Research

Rationale: The ICHN will actively support and facilitate public health and community nurses to provide services to individuals, families and communities that are based on the best available research evidence.

Objectives

- To generate a comprehensive and coherent understanding of community nursing services including structures, processes, interventions and outcomes
- To develop research capacity in the area of generating and utilising evidence in community nursing
- To develop, support and promote good infrastructure in the area of community nursing research and data
- To improve evaluation and monitoring of community nursing in Ireland at local and national level
- To support a continuum of research and data use within policy and practice settings
- Maintain and generate international links with other community nursing organisations

4. **Networking**

Rationale:

We facilitate the building of networks for community nursing, with common interests and create opportunities for effective networking across the health sector.

Objectives:

1. Participate in networking opportunities to represent members on developments and views, pertaining to community nursing.
2. Promote the role of the ICHN to non-members.
3. Engage with partners to develop strong professional links with common purpose organizations.
4. Create networking opportunities at national and international level.
5. Provide a communication & networking platform for our members.
6. Facilitate networking through ICHN events and social media

5. **Information Sharing**

Rationale:

Information pertaining to professional development and researched based best practice, within primary care contributes towards high quality community nursing service for individuals, families and communities. The ICHN provides up to date, relevant information and resources pertaining to nursing in the community.

Objectives:

1. Provide members a tangible resource with easy access to up to date information
2. Facilitate the ongoing sharing of professional information with members, partners and decision makers.

ICHN Membership

An increase in membership over the next three years is critical for the survival and development of the organization. The value and benefit of this professional organization will be promoted at local, regional and national level.

Finance and Funding

ICHN is currently funded by a contribution from the HSE and membership fees. Both require continued assurance and confidence to support the ongoing development of the Institute of Community Nursing. Other sources of funding will be examined as appropriate. Audited financial reports will be published annually from branches and head office to ensure transparency in financial and administrative functions.

Implementing this Strategy

This strategy provides a framework for the ICHN Director and Council to operate and develop an implementation plan for the next three years. Specific targets within each pillar will be agreed and reviewed annually in line with the goals of this strategy.