



A Call for Applications to develop, deliver and evaluate an Advanced Practice Neurological Rehabilitation Education Programme

1. Introduction

The RCN Foundation is an independent charity (1134606 – England and Wales, SC043663 – Scotland) and a company limited by guarantee (7026001). It was set up in 2010 and aims to support and strengthen nursing to improve the health and well-being of the public. The Foundation delivers its purpose by:

- **Supporting** individual members of the nursing team (nurses, midwives and health care support workers) by providing grants for hardship and education purposes
- **Investing** in the nursing profession to improve patient care by funding research and clinical projects in our priority areas of care homes, children and young people's mental health, and learning disability nursing
- **Championing** nursing by raising the profile of the profession and public understanding of its contribution to improving the nation's health

The RCN Foundation is working with the brain injury recovery charity SameYou, to call for applicants to develop an advanced practice education programme for nurses in the specialism of neurological rehabilitation, particularly aimed at those aged 18 to 40 years.

We are seeking to commission a higher education institution or equivalent to develop, deliver and evaluate the advanced practice neurological rehabilitation education programme for nurses. The programme will support nurses to become specialists in neurological rehabilitation, working at an advanced practice level in care for young patients who have experienced acquired brain injury (ABI) or stroke. This will span the NHS, independent non-NHS sector, and Health and Social Care throughout the UK.

2. Call for applicants

We are calling for applicants to develop, deliver and evaluate an innovative and exciting advanced level practice education programme in neurological rehabilitation for nurses and neurological therapists. The aim of this new programme will be to enhance nurses' skills and knowledge of neurological rehabilitation to support the physical, cognitive and mental health needs of patients aged 18 to 40 years old from across the UK who have experienced an ABI or stroke. Given the multidisciplinary approach to neurological care, the education programme is also likely to be of interest to those delivering therapies in this field. The proposal should also include details of how the programme will be evaluated.



The education programme needs to be constructed around the central theme of integrated treatments which meet the physical, cognitive and mental health needs of patients who have experienced an ABI or stroke.

The education programme should have academic credit at Master's level and be able to support nurses and health care practitioners to undertake Advanced Level Practice within this specialism. It should be recognised in their UK country and transferable between care settings.

The delivery of the education programme is for a pilot period of 1 year and with a start date of September 2020.

The programme should cover a broad range of topics including: advanced clinical physical and mental health neurological assessment and care delivery; clinical service delivery, system and political leadership and research across the NHS and independent sectors. The multidisciplinary approach to neurological rehabilitation for stroke patients and those with an ABI, and the nursing role within that team, should also be explored. How this is developed in practice will need to be outlined in the proposal. Particular emphasis should be placed on training to support patients and their families in the emotional and practical issues facing people after brain injury and stroke,

Applications will be welcomed from organisations using innovative, experiential and transformative learning strategies. This may include a blended learning approach encompassing face-to-face sessions, online training, work based learning and coaching.

Development of the programme must involve a significant level of stakeholder engagement including: patients and their families and carers; adult, mental health and learning disability nurses; and health education bodies from throughout the UK.

The proposal for the education programme should address the following questions:

- How will the advanced practice standards/regulatory requirements across the four countries of the UK will be addressed?
- How will the needs of patients be addressed?
- How will sustainability of the programme beyond the pilot period be ensured?
- How will the evaluation encompass the learners' experiences, the patients' experiences and outcomes, and how it meets the commissioner's objectives, for example, whether and how the programme has made an improvement to patient care?

Applicants are asked to set out the total costs for the development, delivery and evaluation of the education programme and provide a breakdown of component parts.



Once appointed, the successful organisation will be required to submit regular reports to the Foundation. This will include: monthly/bi-monthly (tbc) reports for the Programme Board; interim reports at least every six months and a final report at the end of the pilot delivery period. This will be in addition to the evaluation report.

3. Context for the Call – Why Neuro Rehabilitation?

The RCN Foundation and SameYou are committed to developing a bespoke education programme for the development of specialist nurses and therapists in neurological rehabilitation. It has been recognised that there is unwarranted variation in patient experiences following ABI and stroke and that neurological rehabilitation services across the UK vary widely. There is no education programme that prepares practitioners to support brain injury rehabilitation in a completely holistic way and this approach is fundamental to this call.

The NHS Plan 2018 identified that more than 1.2 million people within the UK have had a stroke. It was reported that within Scotland there were 4,500 deaths a year due to cerebrovascular disease (Scottish government, 2014). The Welsh Government (2017) stated there are 7,400 patients having experienced a stroke per annum with a now estimated 66,000 survivors living in Wales. The Northern Irish government (2019) has identified a need to address services and launched a consultation service review.

Stroke is the fourth single leading cause of death within the UK, and the largest cause of complex disability (NHS, 2018). Stroke rates have fallen by around 40%, with the deaths of patients who received hospital care halved over the past two decades. However, demographics indicate that within the under 40-69 age group incidences have risen to 38% of all strokes (Public Health England, 2018). The Stroke Association (2018) reported that approximately 25% of strokes occur in adults under 65 years of age and although 40-50% of strokes in younger adults are haemorrhagic, a third have no identifiable cause.

Without future action, and with a growing population and longer life expectancy, these figures are expected to increase dramatically within the next 15 years. It is estimated that there will be 50% more people living with stroke associated disability by 2035 (NHS, 2018). The implications of such statistics for health and social care, and indeed on society as a whole, are significant. It is therefore imperative that this is taken into consideration when planning the development of health care.

Within the UK, the development of Advanced Level Practice Nurses within this specialism would support leadership, innovation, research and clinical development within the care pathway. This would enable the patient and their family to progress through rehabilitation to discover their future physical, mental and cognitive requirements maximising their recovery journey.



Sources

NHS England (2018) The Long Term Plan <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Scottish Government (2014) The Stroke Improvement Plan
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/stroke-improvement-plan/pages/3/>

The Welsh Government (2017) 2017-2020 The Stroke Delivery Plan
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/stroke-delivery-plan-2017-to-2020.pdf>

Department of Health Northern Ireland (2019) Reshaping healthcare a consultation
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/health/rscs-consultation-document.pdf>

Public Health England (2018) Briefing document: first incidence of stroke 2007-2016
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678444/Stroke_incidence_briefing_document_2018.pdf

The Stroke Association (2018) State of the Nation
https://www.stroke.org.uk/system/files/sotn_2018.pdf

4. Outline for the proposal

There is no application form for this call. Instead, please ensure that your proposal covers the points highlighted below.

Section A: Application details

Please include details of the project lead and the organisation that you are applying from. Please give a description of the organisation and list the team. In addition please list any partner organisations involved in the programme development, delivery and evaluation.

The ideal application will demonstrate:

- Considerable experience of carrying out similar work
- Experience of developing, delivering and evaluating innovative, experiential and transformational advanced level practice education programmes
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience of providing written reports and presenting findings to both nursing professionals and non-specialists
- Understanding the equalities issues around neurological rehabilitation care for all communities across the four countries of the UK



Section B: Programme Details

This section will introduce the questions and issues central to the development and delivery of the programme and should identify the aims and objectives and what methods or means you plan to use. Please also include here any ethical approvals that may be required.

Please provide an overview of the course content and how it will take a person-centred approach to supporting the physical, cognitive and mental health of patients who have experienced an ABI/stroke.

Please provide an outline of the learning, teaching and assessment strategies to be used and an explanation of why they have been selected.

Please describe the main outputs and outcomes of the education programme and how these meet the priorities of the call.

Please describe how you intend to gain institutional approval for the programme, including academic accreditation.

Please describe how the programme will be evaluated.

Please describe how the programme will enhance delivery of care across the continuum of care for the patient.

Please describe how the programme will be responsive to the development of advanced practice across the four countries of the UK and enable students from across the UK to access the programme.

Please describe what the progression routes for students who have successfully undertaken this programme could be.

Please provide an outline of the timescales for the project. This should include the key phases, deadlines and milestones of the project, as well as any other relevant information.

Please outline how you propose to disseminate the outcomes of the programme, identifying the key activities, and the audiences at whom the outcomes will be targeted.

Please outline how the sustainability of the programme will be ensured beyond the pilot period.

Please provide brief CVs of those mainly responsible for delivering the programme particularly the subject matter expert/s that will be used.



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Section C: Costs and Resources

Please provide a detailed breakdown of costs.

Next Steps

The closing date for applications is 5 pm on 15 November 2019.

Interviews will be held between mid-November and mid-December. Applicants will be informed of the decision in December.

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Proposals should be submitted by email to: grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk

Should you have any questions about this funding call please contact Deepa Korea on deepa.korea@rcn.org.uk.

Thank you for your interest.