

Haemophilia Nurses' Association

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The Haemophilia Nursing Association (HNA) represents and supports specialist nurses who care for people with bleeding disorders in the UK.

For the HNA (as for everyone) the past year has been one of disruption, change and accommodation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The courses and the lines of support that we would normally have been able to offer to the association members have not been available and we have had to move everything online. As a result, we have been unable to run our yearly conference which has been postponed until the latter half of 2021. We have though continued to run ongoing training courses, including a new Introduction to Haemophilia Care course, the Contemporary Care course and ASPIRE, utilising various online platforms. We hope that in future years we may be able to offer these courses in a face to face format once again.

Following the release of the Peer Review reports back in April 2020, the HNA was pleased to see the excellent service provision offered by both Comprehensive Care Centres (CCCs) and Haemophilia Treatment Centres (HTCs) around the country. It was though disappointing to see the reports highlight that there was not always a parity of service across the whole of the UK in areas including, staffing levels to patient numbers, care provided to extended specialities, support of the wider multi professional teams, such as psychology support. The COVID-19 pandemic and the local preparedness changes (the redeployment of staff to other specialties, the need to work from home, and the movement of some centres wholesale to facilities little suited to the level of service required) have in some ways exacerbated this lack of parity. The committee have therefore been looking at how best to support its members during this time and have been sharing standards, individual job descriptions and matrices of responsibilities/duties across all of its platforms (Haemnet, Facebook and Twitter), so that individual centres and nursing teams can further evidence the level of care being provided in centres and advocate for parity within their Trusts.

During the past year HNA members have continued to be key stakeholders in the ongoing care of people living with bleeding disorder and have continued to be active participants within the UK haemophilia treaters community, including in the CRG, CMU, NHDDAG, and various UKHCDO working parties.

On behalf of the HNA committee, I would like to thank all the members who work within the field and whose passion for their role continues to ensure that the national voice of haemophilia nursing is heard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Fletcher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Fletcher
Chair, Haemophilia Nurses' Association
October 2020