



The Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland

Application for the Queen's Nurse Programme

Guidance for Sponsors

The organisational support form is at the end of this document and is there to ensure that nominated candidates have the commitment of their employer for their participation in the Queen's Nurse Development Programme. In addition, we have asked for each candidate to have a sponsor. This may be a line manager or another senior colleague who can authorise the time for the candidate to be released to attend the workshops and to support the exploration of their issue for development. What follows is information for you as a sponsor, to be read in conjunction with the main guidance document. Please get in touch if there is anything further you require.

A reminder of the benefits to employers

- A funded transformational personal and professional development opportunity for community based clinical leaders.
- Development of a key issue, of importance to the community, focused on addressing health inequalities, which participants will work on with support over the nine-month period.
- Clinical leaders who will develop their skills and capabilities as change makers and will also bring others with them as partners as they explore their issue for development.
- A chance for practitioners to establish a career long identity as Queen's Nurses, becoming part of a network of ongoing support, learning opportunities and events.
- It is envisaged that they, in turn, will mentor others and will be seen as role models locally and nationally.
- An important opportunity to profile expert community practitioners and share positive messages about contemporary practice in your area.

The Commitment

Please be aware of the time commitment necessary for their participation and from you as sponsor. In partnership with a range of grant making trusts, the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland has funded the development programme. This includes the weeklong (Monday-Friday) residential workshop, the two other workshops (one of which will be online), individual coaching as well as all accommodation and travel costs (for those coming from a distance).

We expect employers to release staff and give them the time to participate. If they are selected, this is ten days in total over the year, which should include travel time to all but the most remote and rural areas.

In order to make the most of the opportunity some candidates have found it helpful to negotiate some additional development time to take forward their issue. It may be helpful to think about whether it might be possible to free up some time to enable the candidate to meet with others working with the issue, or to set up meetings with stakeholders and listen to their views. This needs to be carefully discussed with you as sponsor from the outset, so expectations are managed. QNIS would be delighted if you felt able to consider whether you might support the individual taking forward this issue *whether or not* they were selected for the Queen's Nurse Programme.

Nominations

There are currently twenty places each year, we are working with the Executive Nurse Directors in NHS Scotland and leaders from the third and independent sector to nominate candidates. Those nominated will then apply using a written application to demonstrate their skills against the [Excellence Profile](#) and describe the issue which they would like to explore during the development programme.

Executive Nurse Directors have been asked to identify candidates from each NHS Board to put forward for selection. Please liaise with your nurse director as health boards often have different systems for identifying staff to be nominated. Third and independent sector organisations have also been asked to nominate. The most important quality is that those selected should be really enthusiastic about being put forward to be Queen's Nurses, and that you as a manager feel that they would benefit from the programme and see the individual as an ambassador for their specialty and your organisation.

The overarching focus of the programme is for **those working in areas of deprivation who are committed to addressing inequity, improving health and care for those in their**

communities. The programme is for nurses and midwives in the community who have significant direct clinical contact and are caseload holders.

For 2022 we are keen to open up opportunities for those who are currently underrepresented, and some priority places will be given to applicants who are:

- 1. From black and ethnic minority communities.**
- 2. Young nurse leaders (continuing the Nursing Now Nightingale Challenge).**
- 3. Men in community nursing.**

There will be twice as many nominations as place available, so we would very much appreciate your additional support for those who are nominated, but not successful after shortlisting or selection event.

Individuals being nominated as potential Queen's Nurse candidates should meet the following criteria. They must:

- Be open to creative, contemplative and compassionate ways of developing your awareness as a professional.
- Be committed to activism for social justice in your area of practice.
- Have current registration with the NMC as a nurse, or midwife.
- Spend the majority of their professional time in the community.
- Be known as a clinical expert and seen as a role model by their peers.
- Demonstrate the qualities outlined in the [Excellence Profile](#).
- Be available to attend a selection event (see below).
- Be available to attend all three workshops (dates above).
- Have the full support of a manager as sponsor within their organisation.
- Have a development issue in mind, agreed with their sponsor to work on during the Queen's Nurse Development Programme.
- Have a signed commitment of support from the Executive Nurse Director or equivalent.

Please send names and job title of your nomination to QNIS by midday Monday 4th October 2021.

Completing the application form

Once your Nurse Board Director has nominated the candidate, by sending their details by email to QNIS, they will need to complete the application form. We ask for nominations ahead of time so that we can support candidates with the application process and to give us time to look at the spread of specialties being nominated and to invite additional nominations to fill any gaps.

Since the opportunity is an important one, we are asking people to be reflective in their applications. The process is similar to the reflective accounts required for NMC revalidation. It will take significant time and thought to complete the application and we recommend that applicants allow a few weeks to write the various sections and check them over. There are examples on the website to help. It may be useful to have a “critical companion” to review the application before submission. All the previous Queen’s Nurses have offered their support and their email addresses are available.

The first sections of the application require information about career and current role. The supporting information, section 2, asks applicants to reflect on their practice in the light of the [Excellence Profile](#) which you will see in the guidance. The Excellence Profile describes the contemporary Queen’s Nurse and the qualities which we will be looking to develop further over the course of the development programme. We are looking for examples of **HOW** their expertise already matches the areas described in the profile, recognising that this is a development journey. The panel is looking for self-awareness; the ability to reflect on how behaviours have had an impact on patients and colleagues. Please support applicants in their reflection and encourage them to think about **HOW** their actions have made a difference and what they have learned.

The issue for development

During the programme every candidate will be expected to work on an issue for development which makes a difference to their community, based on a need which they have identified with you as their sponsor. The work is to be co-produced with those affected, so plans do not need to be set in stone at this stage and will emerge in collaboration with others. It is expected that the issue is taken forward as an integral part of their core role in negotiation with you as sponsor. This needs to be carefully discussed from the outset.

What happens next?

Boards requested to submit nominations to QNIS	Noon Monday 4 th October 2021
Time for QNIS to request additional candidates for underrepresented groups	5 th October – 25 th October 2021
Closing date for written applications from nominees (including organisational support forms)	Noon Monday 15 th November 2021
Candidates informed and invited to selection events if short listed	Invitations sent week commencing 6 th December 2021
Regional selection events	10 th , 12 th and 17 th January 2022

Application forms including your organisational support form need to be received at QNIS by 25th October.

If candidates are chosen to go forward to the selection events, they will be informed week commencing Monday 6th December and you will also be informed of the decision by email, for the candidates you have nominated. Similarly, after the selection events, you will be informed of the outcome either way. Candidates who come to the selection events are all given feedback from the day and you may wish to take time to review this with them.

Thank you for your commitment to the programme. It would not be possible without your vision and support