Since The Queen’s Nursing Institute (QNI) was established in 1887, we have been a charity focused on improving the experience of the patient cared for in the home and community.

One of the many ways in which we can demonstrate that we make a tangible difference to patients, families and carers is through the support we give every year to the successful delivery of our QNI frontline innovation projects.

This year we are delighted to be supporting a range of projects from England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The projects will be led by frontline nurses who have been through a rigorous and competitive selection process before being awarded their place on the programme.

The projects have been selected because they were considered to be the projects that would make the greatest impact on patient care. When shortlisted for interview, the nurses who led the successful projects were those who were able to demonstrate that they understood the potential impact of their project, had identified the potential barriers and had reflected on how these might be overcome.

The project leaders include practitioners who work with young children and families, such as health visitors and school nurses, those who work with whole populations, such as practice nurses, and nurses who work with older people and patients at the end of their lives, such as district nurses.

All are passionate about the difference that they will make to their patients’ lives by being given the opportunity to deliver their projects, with the support and guidance of the QNI.

‘Many of our project leaders blossom and move into senior nursing roles — positions that they tell us would never have been possible without the QNI project leadership programme’

This eclectic mix of nurses from the family of community nursing will come together three times during the course of their 12-month projects, for a project leadership development programme directed by Anne Pearson, the highly skilled QNI practice development manager.

At the start of the year-long programme, the project leaders will focus on the aims of the project, learning how to articulate the purpose of their individual projects in a meaningful way and focusing clearly on patient outcomes.

They will be provided with the opportunity to learn the expert skills of project management and leadership — skills which will equip them for their future career beyond the life of the project.

Over the years that the QNI has been running the innovation projects with frontline practitioners, it is notable that many of our project leaders blossom and move into senior nursing roles — positions that they tell us would never have been possible without the QNI project leadership programme.

In January, the project leaders will come together for the first time and it will be a privilege to meet a group of aspiring nurse leaders who are at the start of their journey — one which will enhance the care of their patients and potentially many others by the end of the year.

Details of selected previous projects can be seen in the Innovation Centre of the QNI website at: www.qni.org.uk/innovation_centre

Find out more...
The QNI works extensively to:

- Maintain an in-depth knowledge of the community nursing sector and the issues that affect it, disseminated via its website, and wide range of publications
- Act as a trusted authority on the challenges of an ageing population and the increasing need for health care at home
- Provide practical support for nurses seeking to improve patient care, by information sharing, training, project management and evaluation

Visit the QNI website at: www.qni.org.uk to read more...