

Nursing and Midwifery Sustainability Network

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Background

The success of the delivering a net-zero NHS ambitions heavily relies on clinicians. Nurses and midwives, as the largest NHS workforce present across all clinical settings, are well-positioned to support high-quality, lower carbon care. While 9 in 10 staff members support a greener NHS (YouGov, 2021), local efforts have mainly been led by estate and medical professionals. Networks serve multiple purposes, including connecting individuals and driving change (The Health Foundation, 2014), which supports working as a system for quality improvement (Kings Fund 2017, BMJ 2020).

Aims and Objectives of the Network

The NHS England Nursing and Midwifery Sustainability Network launched in December 2022 with the following objectives:

- Share ideas and best practice aligned with net zero ambitions
- Act as a mechanism for scale and spread
- Connect, support and empower nurses and midwives
- Inspire change and encourage innovation

In the context of achieving an effective network, our emphasis has been on fostering a common purpose, strengthening capacity, influencing strategic decisions, and facilitating the sharing and learning from best practices.

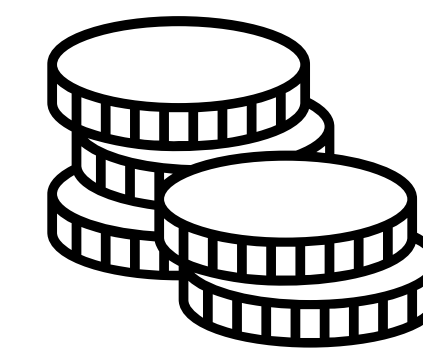
All this with the aim of enhancing the implementation of a net zero NHS and providing opportunities for professional development and celebration in line with CNO commitments to provide workplaces filled with opportunity.

Nursing & Midwifery Sustainability Ambition

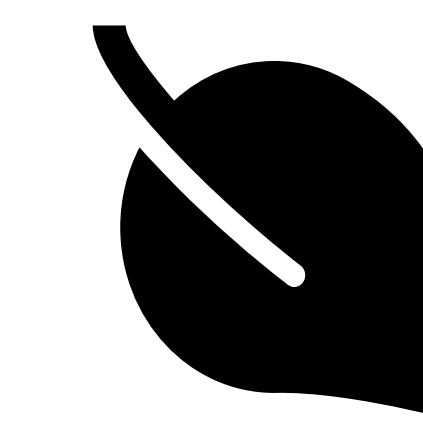


IMPACT

Since December 8 case studies showcasing examples of lower carbon practices have so far been shared with network members. These examples include initiatives that:

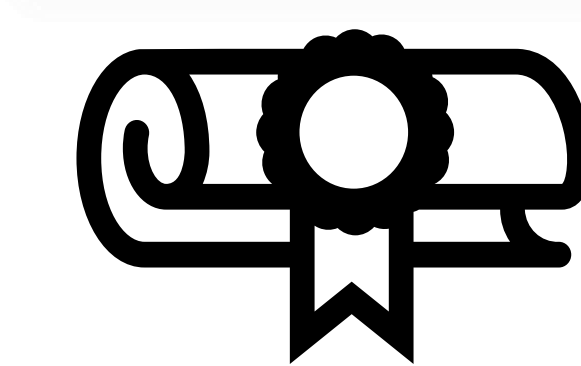


Have saved a department over £40K

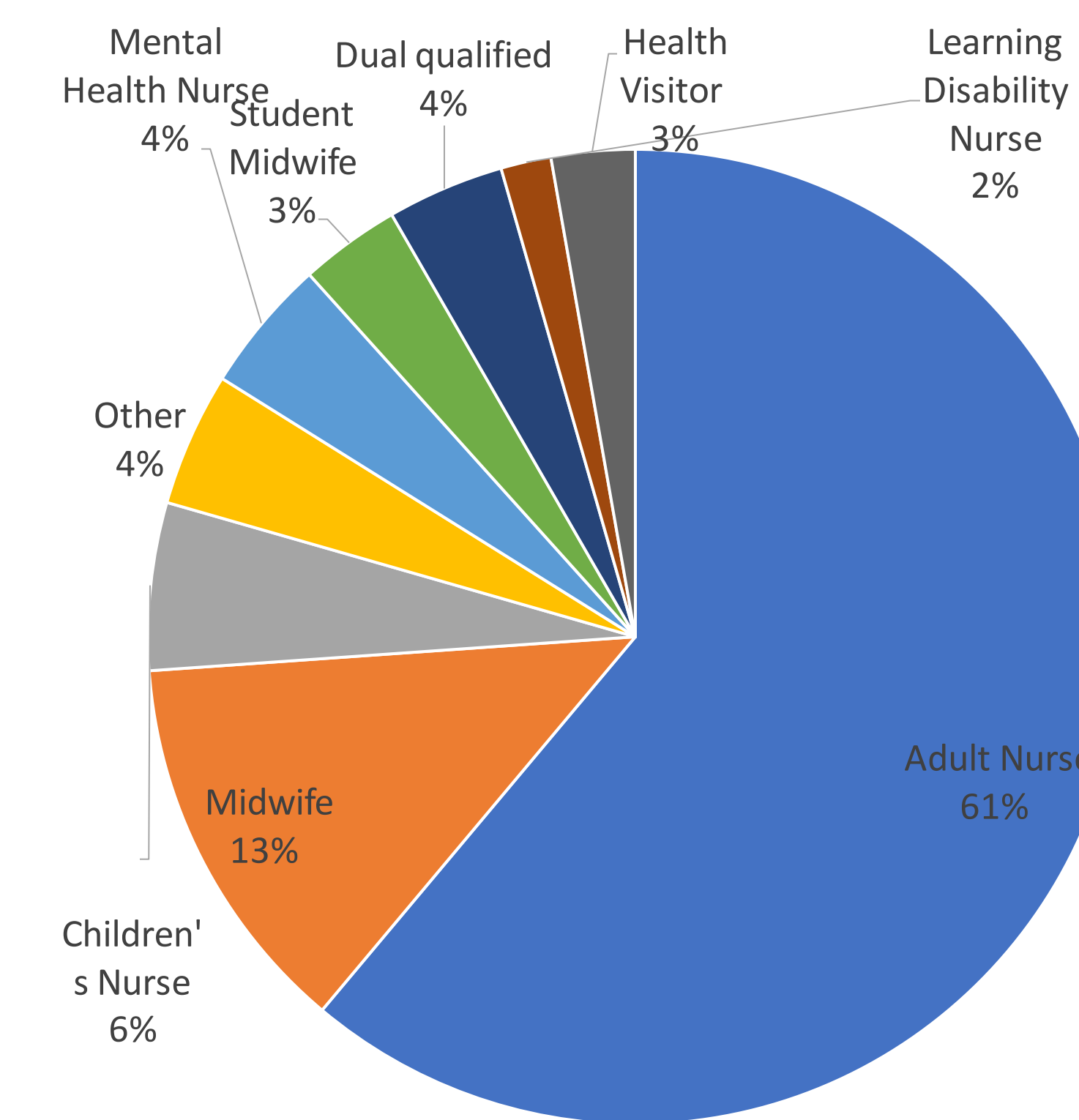


Have reduced one departments carbon emissions from 4437 to 874 tCO2e

The NHS England nursing and midwifery sustainability network has 225 members (Sept 23) from all seven regions of England ranging from pre-registration to band 9 leaders.



Opportunities for training and education have been shared with network members. This includes delivering specific sessions on behavioural insights and hybrid roles and signposting to courses and events.



To date there are 15 lower carbon projects mapped across the country by network members

Evaluation

We mapped current network progress against the five domains of effective networks. In addition, in August, members provided feedback and evaluated the network's effectiveness and impact, while also suggesting further developments and resources. During the August network meeting, group reflection took place. Key points from this evaluation exercise include:

- The network is valued as a space for sharing, learning and connecting.
- Desire for more frequent meetings and further opportunities to learn and be inspired.
- Recognised gaps in representation among members in terms of professions and protected characteristics.

Next Steps

- Continue to build membership, actively connect with other networks
- Develop NHS Futures network space
- Establish a central repository of evidence-based sustainability practices
- Further foster the capacity and capability of our professions
- Amplify the impact of our professions
- Continue to evaluate and capture the strategic value of this network

In conclusion, this network is a valued space for our members. More can be done to scale and spread sustainability practices. The network has further potential to harness our professions contribution to delivering a net zero NHS whilst providing quality care for the communities we serve.

“Very useful, [the network] provides a platform to share ideas & others experience & evidence.”

“I can already see that it is continuously developing”

Join here!



References: *BMJ* 2020;368:m865; Health Foundation (2014) Effective Networks for Improvement Available at: [EffectiveNetworksForImprovement.pdf \(health.org.uk\)](#); Kings Fund (2017) Making the case for quality improvement: lessons for NHS boards and leaders Available at: [King's Fund \(kingsfund.org.uk\)](#); YouGov (2022) Information available at: [Greener NHS » Public and staff opinions \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)