

Dear Colleague,

**National Network for Learning Disability Nurses 2011 Networking Event
18th – 19th July, The University of Bangor, North Wales**

*New Challenges, New Solutions
Working Differently Together in Austere Times*

It is with great pleasure that I address you as this year's Chair of NNLDN, at the University of Bangor In Wales, once again outlining our commitment to our being a UK & ROI Network.

This year's venue has a special meaning for us on the core group, as it is where one of our late key core group members and founders of Positive Choices network was based.

We are marking this year with a special celebration of the Fiona Law Student Award with the assistance of her family and the Vice Chancellor of the University in which she was based. We will also be hearing from last year's award winner Graham Burrell who will update the meeting with his project. We will also hear from the new RCN forum on Learning Disability and how you can help Shape the future of our profession, and from the Consultant Nurses group.

This year the core group decided to break a little from our usual focus on policy issues from each of the countries and focus more on "Best Practice" to enable more of you to use the two days as part of your on going Continuing Practice Development portfolios in these fiscally challenged times. On that note too we have also maintained our prices for the fourth year running and looked at practice issues that are beneficial to all Nurses in the Learning Disability Community.

We are also concentrating too this year on Nursing outside the NHS and statutory funded agencies and the role LD Nurses play in Personalisation and the third sector.

There are twelve exciting workshop presentations running, during the two days for you to take part in and a range of exhibitors offering services, information and career opportunities.

The National Network meeting relies heavily on your support and the support of our sponsors to enable us as a branch of nursing to continue to disseminate best practice and support across the UK and the republic of Ireland.

I urge you to look at the programme and get yourself to the National meeting it will do wonders for your portfolio, your confidence & competence.

There are opportunities to meet with Learning disabilities most senior practitioners and spokespersons as well as sharing your own contributions with others.

Bangor has superb Rail links and road links from all parts of the UK and can be easily accessed by train from Liverpool and Manchester Airports or the Dublin & Belfast Ferry terminals.

I look forward to welcoming you in Bangor.



Mark Gray

Chair of NNLDN