

ASCN UK Governance Officer's Report 2026

Wendy Osborne (MSc; RGN; QN)



As I come to the end of my 4 year office – I find myself reflecting on what has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Although the core responsibility of the Governance officer is to ensure the Association's governance aligns with all statutory and regulatory mandates, this work is very much a collaborative effort with Delegant (our secretariate) and all of the committee. While this role is fundamentally about the ongoing development and updating of our SOPs, policies, and risk registers, it is also about being curious and questioning our processes and ensuring that ASCNUK remains compliant and safe in the management of both the Association and the Annual Conference.

However, this role has never been only about “behind the scenes” support. It has also been about being an active and valued part of the committee, working alongside the Area Reps and Trustees to raise the profile of stoma care and to improve patient outcomes, quality, and access to care for people living with a stoma.

As you will have seen in the reports from other committee members, there has been ongoing communication with the DHSC, including the Part IX review of the Drug Tariff and the NHSE bowel and bladder review. Collectively, we have worked diligently to represent you — the ASCNUK membership — as well as ourselves as specialist practitioners and advocates for our patients. We all support the need for consistency in care pathways, robust evidence to inform decision-making, and evolving services and treatment plans. However, this must not come at the expense of limiting choice or reducing resources. The impact and ramifications of the proposed changes will affect every one of us, and it is therefore imperative that our voices are heard and our collective views and experiences are clearly expressed to decision-makers.

Maddie and I had the privilege of attending NSWOCC (Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy & Continence Canada), representing ASCNUK and promoting our EXPASS project (Exercise and Physical Activity After Stoma Surgery), which is now attracting international interest. The enthusiasm and support for the Best Practice Recommendations for Exercise After Stoma Surgery was very evident. I have now handed the baton to Paul and Maddie to continue this excellent work, alongside Sarah and Kerry as they finalise the tools that you and your patients will be able to use in practice. Once again, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Sarah and Kerry for their expertise, passion and voluntary contributions to this project, to the EXPASS expert panel, to Industry for their financial support, and to John, our medical writer, who was superb in bringing the project to fruition.

Although a key area for review was the governance of the ASCN UK closed Facebook page, an agreement to utilise LinkedIn was felt to be the preferred platform for our social media. A huge thankyou to Delegant for supporting this – I am sure you will agree there have been some excellent and varied posts to promote ASCNUK's activity. We will continue to gain feedback and explore ways to maximise the social media platforms, aiming to foster networking and communication. These platforms must continue to provide a safe space for ASCNUK members, while remaining compliant with relevant regulations. Our commitment is to use these tools effectively, while safeguarding member privacy and maintaining compliance at all times.

Ultimately I wish to say a huge heartfelt thankyou to all of the committee members over the last 4 years – it really has been fantastic working with you all and thank you for keeping alive the spirit, dedication and passion that continues to raise the profile of stoma care.

Wendy Osborne
Governance and Communication Officer