

# ASCN UK Vice Chairperson's Report 2026

Kevin Hayles



In January 2026, I had the honour of representing ASCNUK at the Houses of Parliament during the All Party Political Group (APPG) for Continence Care. This provided an important opportunity for the association to contribute to national discussions on continence services and to ensure that the voices of specialist stoma care nurses were represented within the wider healthcare agenda. The meeting enabled me to provide an update on the ASCS project and also enabled discussion regarding equitable access to public conveniences for all whilst advocating for the role and value of specialist stoma care nursing. This engagement reinforces ASCNUK's commitment to influencing policy and improving patient outcomes through collaborative working.

In March 2026, I was able to attend a face-to-face meeting in Edinburgh with the Scottish Stoma Forum, providing an excellent platform for sharing best practice, discussing service innovation and exploring emerging challenges affecting stoma care across Scotland. Through this work I am continually amazed and enthused at the work carried out to improve stoma care provision throughout Scotland and the incredible level of commitment to this by the stoma nurses involved. This forum highlights the importance of maintaining strong links between the national stoma care community to ensure consistency of practice and equitable access to specialist stoma nurse services.

I, along with Natasha Rolls, continue to represent ASCNUK at regular meetings with the British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA). Participation in these meetings has enabled the association to contribute to discussions affecting the provision of stoma services whilst maintaining constructive partnerships with our industry colleagues. These meetings play an important role in maintaining collaborative relationships between healthcare professionals and industry partners.

During the year I have also worked with the associations to promote what we as ASCNUK do and to try align with their projects too and this is in recognition of the significant contribution the charities makes in supporting individuals living with a stoma. Discussions have included, patient education and support initiatives, raising awareness of the challenges experienced by people living with a stoma and opportunities for joint working to improve patient outcomes and experiences.

Attendance at the joint World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET) and Nurses Specialised in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada (NSWOCC) Congress in Vancouver provided an excellent opportunity for international engagement and professional development. This platform provided learning from international leaders in ostomy, wound and continence care with emerging evidence, research and technological developments. It has also allowed me to start building international professional networks and identifying opportunities for future collaboration and knowledge exchange. The conference reinforced the importance of global partnership working and highlighted the continued leadership role that UK stoma care nurses play within the international community.

I have attended one of the face-to-face area rep's meetings and this was an opportunity to see how much of a difference the area reps really do make as they take on a variety of projects to enhance the field of stoma care and helping to shape guidelines aimed at standardising the provision of stoma care again in line with the ASCS project.

Our focus has remained on advancing standards of stoma care (ASCS Project), strengthening professional collaboration, influencing national policy, supporting member development, and raising the profile of specialist Stoma Care Nursing across the UK. It has been an incredibly enjoyable first year as Vice Chair of the Association of Stoma Care Nurses UK and I am looking forward to the next year and exciting things ahead.

**Kevin Hayles**  
Vice Chair

