



Infection Prevention  
Society

# *IPS Annual Review 2022 - 2023*



9th October 2023

[www.ips.uk.net](http://www.ips.uk.net)

It is our pleasure to introduce this annual review for the financial year ending 31 March 2023, on behalf of the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) Board of Trustees and the Management Executive Group.

2022/2023 was the year that the world began to get back up on its feet post the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare across the globe has continued to face a challenging and unprecedented time recovering from the pandemic whilst attempting to reduce the backlog of patients needing care. We know that infection prevention practitioners, researchers, academics, leaders, and policy makers have worked tirelessly to enable the safe delivery of health and care to our communities and our patients. The emotional toll of this work cannot be underestimated, we would like to say a heartfelt 'thank you' for all that you have done, and all that you continue to do.

During the review period in 2022/2023, the IPS has continued to work hard in representing over 2,400 members, we are hugely grateful for the boundless energy and time that you give to the profession and our Society, we are indebted to each and every one of you. As we have progressed over the past 12 months, the role that industry has played in supporting innovation in infection prevention practice, and in supporting the Society is acknowledged and hugely valued, working together we can continue to innovate whilst protecting our fragile planet.

Our Sustainability Special Interest Group (SIG) is now the fastest growing Group of the Society, a recognition that achieving Net Zero, whilst challenging, will benefit global health and reduce health and care inequalities. Throughout 2022/2023, we have also recognised that as a Society we must further develop our reach, our inclusivity and our diversity, we know that significant inequalities exist across the world and here in the United Kingdom and Ireland, during this coming year we will continue to promote inclusion and work to develop greater diversity in our membership and our leadership.

Finally, our annual review details our activity over the past financial year and is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our incredible Branches, and our Special Interest and Business Groups, all of whom have given their time freely and in support of the Society. We would also like to express our thanks to members of the Management

Executive Group and Board of Trustees for their stewardship, creativity, and invaluable support during the past year.



Lisa Butcher  
President  
Infection Prevention Society



Prof. Steve Hams MBE, MStJ, RN  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Infection Prevention Society

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## Governance and Strategy

### **Governance**

The Society moved to a new governance structure in 2020. With the transfer of Governance functions to the Board of Trustees since then, this has enabled the Management Executive Group, made up of the Executive Officers, Business Group Leads and Country Leads, to focus on delivering the work of the Society.

The [Board of Trustees](#) oversee the business and assets of the IPS and act in accordance with the IPS governing document, (Articles of Association).

The [Management Executive Group \(MEG\)](#) oversees the general management and day to day running of the society.

The IPS MEG and Trustees have ensured that the Society met all of the requirements of the Charity Commission during the period of this annual report.

### **Strategy**

During 2020, the IPS Trustees and MEG developed a 2021 – 24 Strategic Plan with the support of Q5, an organisational development consultancy. The new strategic plan was published in February 2021 ahead of being implanted on the 1 April 2021.

A one-year Annual Workplan for 2022-2023 was developed from the Strategic Plan and is reviewed at MEG meetings throughout the year to track activity against outcomes. The

current strategic plan can be viewed on the IPS website ([www.ips.uk.net](http://www.ips.uk.net)). During the year, the IPS Trustees and MEG also began planning the new organisational strategy, and this will be a focus for 2023/2024.

## Membership and Finances

Our activities have continued across a range of endeavours and continue to grow in an ever-challenging health and care arena. When approving activities, the Trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. However, these activities do not come without a significant financial cost. Robust management of financial assets is considered to be one of the Society's critical functions, and the Trustees and MEG take this duty very seriously when meeting regulatory obligations and fulfilling charitable objectives.

Whilst Society activity has continued to develop and make successful progress, with the exception of this financial year, there has been a general decline in our income over the past seven years. As part of its financial management processes, the Society continues to have stringent expenditure controls based on standard operating procedures to ensure financial health. MEG, Board of Trustees and Branches meetings have all taken on a hybrid or virtual approach, and this reducing annual expenditure on travel and subsistence costs and has an added benefit of helping the IPS to reducing its carbon footprint.

The Trustees are pleased that they are able to report a net surplus of £41,482 for the year 2022/2023. In addition, the Society has reserves of £927,652 in unrestricted funds putting the Society in a healthy position to continue with its objectives. Total membership on 31 March 2023 has held steady with 2,343 members demonstrating an increase of 95 members against the previous financial year. Although there was a decrease in corporate membership during the financial period from 48 to 46, we continued to actively engage with our corporate colleagues.

### **Reserves Policy**

The total funds held by the Society as of 31 March 2023 are £927,652 (2022 - £886,169). Reserves consist entirely of unrestricted funds.

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned agreed expenditure. The Trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves as of 31 March 2023 would be £336,910.

### **Investments**

Included on the Society's total funds, the Society held investments of £457,765.75 at the end of the financial year.

There are no restrictions on the Trustees to spend any income generated from investments or capital in any way, provided such spends meets the objects of the Articles of Association.

Full financial report - coming soon

## Business Group Activity

### Education and Professional Development Committee

The EPDC purpose is to develop, implement and evaluate a range of education and professional development opportunities which will empower and enable members to be inspired and inform infection prevention practice. This is achieved by the development of resources, competency-based education activities and collaborative working



**Kerry Holden**  
EPDC Coordinator

### EPDC Key Activity

### Journal of Infection Prevention: Editorial Management Group

The EMG focuses on publishing a high-quality peer reviewed publication, the Journal of Infection Prevention, which advances professional knowledge and skill in the art and science of IPC practice. The EMG is responsible for supporting the publication of high-quality original papers and increasing the profile of the journal.



**Heather Loveday**  
EMG Coordinator

### Scientific Programme Committee (SPC)

The SPC focuses on creating robust and topical scientific programmes for the IPS annual conference and works in parallel with professional conference organisers, Conference Partners International (CPI), to deliver a high quality, well evaluated professional networking and learning event for members and the



**Kat Topley**

wider national and international infection prevention and control community.

**SPC Coordinator  
IP2022**

During the year, our flagship networking and knowledge-exchange platform was s our annual Conference which was held in Bournemouth in October 2022. Conference was a huge success for the Society, attracting over 500 delegates and 67 sponsors and exhibitors over 3 days.

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### **Research and Development Committee**

The R&D Committee focuses on building research capability and capacity among the IPS membership through education, initiating collaborative research projects and awarding annual research grants. In addition, they work with other external groups to further the evidence base for infection prevention and control.



**Ashley Flores**  
R&D Lead 2022/23

R and D Key Activity

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### **International Engagement Committee**

The IEC focuses on engaging with international colleagues and sustaining links with IPS members working outside of the UK. The IEC continues to engage with international members through the President's Digest and IPS International Communique and also promotes the IPS when attending international conferences. IPS membership is provided for colleagues working in resource limited countries via Special Access Membership.



**Rafaela Franca**  
IEC Lead 2022

IEC Key Activity

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### **Corporate Affairs Group**

The Corporate Affairs Group (CAG) provides a robust and effective foundation upon which to conduct relations with IPS corporate members and also to promote membership of the Society to new members.

The IPS Board of Trustees and MEG has consistently acknowledged the outstanding contribution made by corporate



**Rachel Downham**  
Corporate Affairs Lead

members to the well-being of the Society given their support at national and branch levels. The Board has therefore been pleased to facilitate the CAG and its programmes which sustain and enrich this relationship.

Corporate Affairs Key Activity

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## Projects and Collaborations

### Improving Device-Related Infection Prevention Practice

Originally set up in 2018, the DRIPP collaborative project includes the Infection Prevention Society, the National Infusion and Vascular Access Society (NIVAS), the Association for Safe Aseptic Practice (ASAP), British Association of Urological Nurses (BAUN) and Association for Continence Advice (ACA) supported by BD-Becton Dickinson. The aim is to develop resources to support best practice in the management of VADs and UCs to reduce variation and inconsistency in the delivery of care.

The DRIPP resources and events can found on the [DRIPP website](#)

DRIPP activity during 2022/23

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### Vessel Health Preservation Project

The [Vessel Health and Preservation](#) (VHP) Project is led by the IPS in collaboration with the National Infusion and Vascular Access Society and Medusa supported with an educational grant from Teleflex to provide an evidence-based framework for vascular access.

VHP activity during 2022/23

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### OneTogether Partnership

Our [OneTogether](#) partnership with the Association of Perioperative Practitioners, Central Sterilising Club, College of Operating Department Practitioners, Royal College of Nursing is supported by 3M and has created a large set of practical surgical site infection prevention resources over the last few years but as with most activity was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Branch and Special Interest Group Activity

IPS has 14 branches and 7 Special Interest Groups. The branches and special interest groups are the heart of the Society and provide opportunities for collaborating, problem solving, networking and professional development for IPS members.



Highlights for 2022/23 include:

- The **East of England Branch** conference in June 2022, which for the second year was held via Teams, proved a success. Prof. Steve Hams, Board of Trustee Chair, opened the day. Five partners sponsored the event, and each gave a presentation. Almost 100 delegates joined the call with subjects covering IPC in care homes during and beyond the pandemic, zoonotic viruses and now Monkeypox (Chris Smith, The Naked Scientist), Ventilation, Decontamination and Water (Karren Staniforth – UKHSA), Lassa Fever and the unexpected event and other presentations from services around the region.
- The **London South Branch** developed a Branch Support Pack using google drive which incorporated a Communication Strategy for events, webinar evaluations, and MS form to engage members on the branch educational agenda The Branch continues to promote educational webinars and during the year held online webinars on urinary catheters, surgical site infections and hand hygiene.
- The **North East Branch** had to change their annual conference last minute from face-to-face to virtual but there was still good attendance. To promote engagement, the Branch has incorporated Slido into presentations to create more interactive meetings, which has had positive feedback from members.
- The **Northern Ireland Branch** re-established face-to-face branch meetings and started planning for the NI Branch conference which will be held in June 2023.
- The **Republic of Ireland Branch** continued to grow with an increase from 36 Full Members in April 2022 to 50 Full Members in the end of March 2023. The Branch facilitated a targeted lunchtime webinar series on the Built Environment with three successful webinars with eminent speakers including Professor Elaine Cloutman-Green. An education subgroup was established in March 2023 with the aim of supporting webinars and study day x 1 in 2023, Webinars x 2 May 2023 and Study Day planned for 6 October 2023.
- The **Scotland Branch** hosted a successful Branch Conference at the Golden Jubilee, Glasgow and held 4 successful virtual branch meetings with growing attendance and industry partnership involvement.

- The **South West Branch** introduced face-to-face meetings throughout the year but continued with virtual meetings as required. Two of the branch officers attended the first IPS Officers Training Day in Birmingham and planning began for the face to face branch annual conference for 2023.
- The **Trent Branch** continued to hold virtual and face to face branch meetings every quarter throughout the year. The annual Branch conference was moved from May to July to enable a face to face conference to go ahead. This will be moved back to May for 2023. The conference had good attendance from delegates face-to-face and exhibitors and the event evaluated well.
- The **Welsh Branch** held a National Study Day on the 6 of July 2022 which received very positive feedback from both delegates and exhibitors Branch meetings were held in collaboration with the Public Health Wales infection prevention forum with the aim to sustain and increase membership. The Branch Coordinator also sits on the National Delivery Unit for Infection Prevention representing their Health Board plus IPS.
- The **Wessex Branch** held successful online evening webinars in July 2022 and September 2022, and a successful Branch conference was held on the 10 November 2022. During the year the Branch improved the use of the IPS website.
- The **Yorkshire Branch** put together a two-year schedule outlining virtual and face-to-face meetings, with locations spread across West and South Yorkshire. Venues include a mixture of industry partners locations such as GAMA and B Braun, and more relaxed mindful locations such as the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The Branch also held a six-weekly dial in support for Yorkshire Branch members to attend; a well-attended and well evaluated One Day Conference sponsored by Tristel at the Bridge Community Church, Leeds in June 2022; a face-to-face meeting at Temple Newsam in Leeds in July 2022, sponsored by Gojo; a meeting in March 2022 with hospitality provided by GAMA Healthcare at their offices in Halifax.
- The **Ambulance SIG** had a new Coordinator appointed and a work plan has been drafted and ready to put in place for 23/24 including a study day in 2024 and a face-to-face meeting during the IPS Annual Conference 2023.
- The **Audit and Surveillance SIG** has over 800 members and continues to be the largest of the specialist interest groups. The SIG have been working on the development and testing of two novel surveillance tools: a Vascular Access Device Infection tracker developed in collaboration with the IV SIG and an outbreak management solution created in collaboration with the University of Salford (the ICE Tool). During the year the SIG has been developing technical resources to support the surveillance of HCAI and continued to collaborate with other SIGs and academic partners.
- The **Care Home SIG** held two face to face and one virtual meeting with the face-to-face meetings both fully booked, and 60 attendees at the Teams meeting. A working party was formed from volunteers within the SIG to review the National Standards of Cleaning document appendices, making drafts that can be adapted as needed by adult social care settings. The SIG also participated in CDI

collaborative workshop, and joined a working party led by TSA and De Montford University reviewing laundry management in care homes, with aim of developing guidelines.

- The **Community and Health Protection SIG** held its first meeting held on 11 May 2022. Settings covered in meetings have included schools, asylum seeker accommodation and prisons. As of 31 March 2023, membership of the group stood at 223.
- The **IV Forum SIG** held two webinars: 21 February 2023 – Sustainability and 29 March 2023 – IVOS. The SIG took part in a survey to understand the impact of the vessel health and preservation framework UK VHP 2020 and also the National Intravenous (IV) passport development Phase 2 - a tool for clearer, standardised communications and improved patient safety, experience and outcomes. An IV Forum Conference was held November 2022.
- The **Mental Health and Learning Disabilities SIG** meetings have continued and remain blended (face to face and virtual). Six-weekly catch-up and WhatsApp groups have continued to provide invaluable support for members, and the SIG supported one educational presentation at the 2022 Annual Conference.
- The **Sustainability SIG** is the newest special interest group of the society with meetings held monthly from January 2023. All SIG officer positions were filled at first meeting, and the SIG now has ~100 members, with 30-40 attending each meeting. A conference is taking place in September 2023, with all speaker slots filled, Links have been established between the SIG and key leads within other national groups and bodies. Progress was made on building up a compendium of sustainability projects that IPS members and others can use to facilitate their own projects. The SIG Coordinator has been invited to present on the work of the SIG to several IPS branches (Scotland, ROI, East of England, South West, North West).

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## Developments for 2023/24

During the forthcoming year we will also deliver the following strategic activities:

- We are pleased to be working with NHS England and other interested parties in developing the education framework for infection prevention practitioners.
- We continue to develop our links with the four nations, Ireland, and global partners in developing a shared recognition of the importance of a highly skilled infection prevention workforce to population health.
- We plan to improve the IPS virtual discussion forum for members to promote engagement and offer a platform for the sharing of ideas and challenges.
- In October 2023 we will launch a survey of the IPS membership which will help us to develop a new strategy to highlight the role of the IPS to serve our members, support the IPC and healthcare communities and benefit our patients.

- Our new Strategy will be published in the spring of 2024.
  - We understand that good governance is fundamental to our charity's success. It enables and supports a charity's compliance with the law and relevant regulations. It also promotes a culture in which everything works towards fulfilling the charity's vision. As such, we will further review our governance structure alongside the Charity Governance Code to ensure we operate to high standards of governance.
  - During the year we will continue to develop new income generation streams to ensure we can sustain and grow our charitable activities.
  - We will review the use of the Competencies Framework and the use of the Credentialing Framework.
  - We will strive to continuously improve the annual IPS Conference by evaluating the experience, educational content and value of each conference and incorporating any learning into the planning for subsequent conferences.
  - The activities of our regional branches are crucial to the Society's success, and we will work with our Branches to further support and promote their plans.
  - We aim to continue to strengthen the relationships with corporate members and corporate partners through the work of the IPS Corporate Affairs Group.
  - Throughout 2023/2024 we will continue to strive be a leading influence on IPC practice and provide IPCS members with up-to-date and timely IPC research-related information and resources.
  - Finally, we will promote and improve the benefits of membership for international members who join the IPS and continue to make resources available on the IPS website for members who are supporting resource limited countries.
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## Conclusion

This brief summary of our activity during the period April 2022 and March 2023 is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our Trustees, and the officers of IPS at national, Branch and SIG level. It demonstrates progress against [our strategic plan](#) and illustrates the key building blocks we have put in place to support the ongoing development of the Society

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A copy of this summary review, and our full annual report will is available to download from the IPS website: [www.ips.uk.net](http://www.ips.uk.net)

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### ABOUT

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influence on IPC practice at a  
local, national and international  
level by 2024.

Join IPS today and help make  
our vision a reality

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