

Nuclear Network Bulletin

Quarter 1, April 2025

Welcome to our 2025 Q1 bulletin, giving you updates on the Chartered Quality Institute's Nuclear Network's (formerly known as the Nuclear Special Interest Group). Our group was set up in 2007, to provide opportunities for networking and sharing good practice among Nuclear Quality Professionals; our purpose is to enable our members and partners to showcase the value of nuclear quality.

If you want to provide feedback or get more involved, please contact us via chairnuclearsig@quality.org or secretarynuclearsig@theqcqi.org.

Karine Rackham, Nuclear Network Chair

Steering Group and AGM

As we start another year for the Nuclear Network, we would like to share a few people news for our Steering Group.

We extend our gratitude to Howard Cooper, who has decided to retire from the Steering Group. Howard will, however, continue to support the updating of our Nuclear Quality Knowledge (NQK) publication.

Our AGM was held on 27th March. Karine Rackham was elected as the new Chair [photo]. The previous Chair, Richard Hibbert, was elected Vice Chair. Charlotte Orton continues as Secretary. The AGM endorsed the present membership of the Steering Group.

Our many thanks and appreciation go to James Brown, who has stepped down from his role as Vice Chair, and from leading Nuclear Next Generation (NNG) & 'attract' activities. James' commitment to the network over the years has been second to none, and his work to develop and support the NNG and foster innovation has provided great foundations to help us promote Nuclear Quality as a career of choice. Charlotte Orton and Tom Hockings have both been nominated as Co-Leads for the NNG & 'attract' workstream; both Charlotte and Tom have been active members of the group, and we look forward to helping them on the next steps for NNG.

We held a Steering Group meeting on 5th February; highlights included presentations and discussions on the development of a nuclear-specific complement to the CQI profession map and on the new Nuclear Network website. The proposed layout of the website and revised approach to managing the webpages were endorsed. The meeting also recognised the need to prompt more support for NNG activities.

A presentation to the NIA Quality Working Group on Nuclear Network developments was made on 26th March.

On 16th April, the Steering Group met at the LRQA Head Office, in Birmingham, to discuss the Nuclear Network strategy and objectives [photo]. The session provided an opportunity to shape the focus going forward for the NNG and 'attract' workstream, brainstorm on training needs for Nuclear Quality Professionals, and discuss the scope of the forthcoming membership survey.

Emma-Jane Willis has agreed to take the lead on the 'develop & share' workstream, to provide NQK, material and guidance for Quality Professionals and key stakeholders; Emma-Jane will lead this work with great energy. Again, our gratitude goes to David Edwards, who has led this workstream for the past few years.

Strategy and workstreams

Our plan on a page provides an overview of our five workstreams [photo]. The following objectives were set at the AGM for 2025:

- Hold at least four events, with at least one face to face event.
- Review the NNG situation and identify actions required.
- Develop a 'nuclear quality complement' for the CQI profession map (nuclear specific 'context' competencies).

- Revamp the Nuclear Network website and update its content.
- Conduct an initial review of NQK. Produce and implement a plan for full revision.
- Support the development of Quality Academy training material.

Workstream news

Highlights

- Nuclear quality apprentice schemes were promoted as part of National Apprenticeship Week 2025 and industry networks (SDF, nuclear supply chain, LFE hubs, and Sussex/Surrey AGM).
- A model has been agreed with CQI to complement the profession map with nuclear context competencies. A peer review of the draft competencies is underway. It is planned to launch the competencies during CQI Career Week, in September 2025.
- A template for career profiles has been endorsed, which showcases the diversity of background, and range of opportunities, for Nuclear Quality Professionals. Work is in progress to compile a library of profiles to help promote nuclear quality as a career of choice; if you would like to be featured in our library, please contact us via secretarynuclearsig@thecqi.org.
- Work is ongoing to develop a Quality Academy, and support for the next revision of the NQK has been identified.
- The new Nuclear Website is being developed and will be launched during Career Week in September 2025.

Lowlights

- An NNG recruitment drive has been completed but the response was limited.
- Additional resources to support NNG activities and NQK reviews are needed, including more STEM ambassadors; if you would like to help, please contact us via secretarynuclearsig@thecqi.org.

We are keen to involve the wider Nuclear Network membership in our workstreams. Anyone interested in providing support or input can contact us at chairnuclearsig@quality.org or secretarynuclearsig@thecqi.org.

Events

Next events for our 2025 programme [photo] are:

- The benefits of mentoring (online), Wed 21st March (13:00-15:00), with an overview of the CQI mentoring platform, and insights from mentors and mentees.
- Cyber security (online), dates tbc.
- CQI career week – launch of the Nuclear Network profession map complement and the new Nuclear Network website (online), 15th to 19th September 2025.
- Quality 4.0 and digitisation for Nuclear (in person, Cumbria), October 2025 (date tbc)

We also presented at the Surrey & Sussex AGM on 3rd April, on growing quality talent and apprenticeship schemes – a nuclear industry showcase.

Next Generation Network (NNG)

Please contact us via chairnuclearsig@quality.org or secretarynuclearsig@thecqi.org if you, or others within your organisation, want to join the NNG.

What's coming up?...

Our next Steering Group meeting will be held in June-July. A key focus for this meeting will be to discuss broader engagement with members and stakeholders (including industry groups); if you want to provide input, please contact us via chairnuclearsig@quality.org or secretarynuclearsig@thecqi.org.