

RCN NETWORKING

GUIDELINES FOR RCN BOARDS

**This guidance is for the development of opportunities
for professional**

1. Purpose

This guidance provides a framework for the development of local professional and trade union networking, within the overall governance arrangements for RCN Boards. A checklist on how to set a network up is attached as an appendix.

Guidance for UK-wide networks is also being developed.

2. Context and background

Council

RCN Council is the governing body of the RCN and sets strategic direction and priorities of the organisation. Council operates a scheme of delegation. It delegates authority for specific areas of activity to the Council committees and to boards. Council committees have responsibility for practice and policy development and for identifying and deciding how the strategic priorities of the organisation are met. They are overview and scrutiny committees with a commissioning and assurance role. They set up task and finish groups to carry out priority work which are made up of representatives from the parts of the membership with an interest in the particular issues.

3. an activity plan which is approved by the board and forms part of the country and regional operational plan which it monitors on a quarterly basis. Any funding is approved by the board as part of the planning and budgeting process. Local network activity should demonstrate that it aligns with/compliments the relevant UK f

forthcoming parliamentary enquiries or recent debates that may be of relevance to a professional network and will know whether the RCN has had recent contact with a particular parliamentarian or has meetings set up

recent and forthcoming print and broadcast interviews involving the RCN and can provide support and training where appropriate.

Network members should always contact their country or regional office if they are

Conflict of interest

The network should ensure there is no conflict of interest whenever network e

RCN website www.rcn.org.uk/aboutus/regulations . A typical example of a conflict of interest is to pay for the holding of a network meeting or other function in a hotel or other venue which is owned by a network member, or their family, relatives or friends, another RCN member or other persons with whom network officers have a special relationship or vested interest. If there is any financial benefit or other from so doing, this should be declared to the other officers and the regional/country office beforehand.

Resignation

If a network lead stands down or resigns the position, there are various tasks to be completed, which apply to both the incoming and outgoing network lead:

- a. all network leads have a duty to brief the new lead fully about the network financial position.
- b. the RCN country or regional board must be informed of the change, giving details of the name, membership number and address of the new lead.

Dissolving a professional or trade union network

If a network decides that it is no longer needed, the network lead should formally inform the country or regional board and the staff link for the network.

END

Appendix

Checklist for use when developing a local network

1. Is the purpose to enable members locally to network?
2. Have you clarified the purpose and scope of the network?
3. Have you identified the members who will be part of your network?
4. Have you identified a member network lead?
5. Have you communicated with a member of staff as a link person?
6. Have you discussed how your network will work with your link member of staff?
7. Have you developed a network proposal for the Board?
8. Has your network being approved by your regional or country Board?
9. Have you developed a network activity plan and method of reporting in discussion with your link member of staff and members?