

Professional Nursing Committee Report to Members – March 2024

1. This report reflects work done by the Professional Nursing Committee since

Chief Nurse's Update

8. Professor Nicola Ranger, Chief Nurse, briefed us on the RCN's current activity. The Committee discussed its increasing concern at the significant drop in applications to nursing degree programmes, alongside high university attrition rates. This led to a discussion on the public understanding of the role of a nurse and perceptions of nursing as a career choice.
9. We were briefed on the headline findings of the RCN's recent employment survey where nearly 90% of respondents cited improved pay as 'what would make the biggest difference' to them. Additionally, the survey showed that among those considering or planning to leave their job, the vast majority are looking for a completely different job outside nursing which we believe is a worrying indication of the level of dissatisfaction among nursing staff.
10. We were pleased to hear that work is in train to celebrate the value of nursing, whilst recognising the poor working conditions being endured by nursing staff.
11. Ahead of discussion on the RCN's position in relation to Nursing Associates at the joint meeting the following day, we also acknowledged the lack of funding available for employers to claim reimbursement for Nursing Associates training to become a Registered Nurse (NA 'top up' programmes).
12. Following a presentation on the draft RCN Research Strategy at our last meeting, we heard that PNC comments had been taken into account in the final version which will now be launched at the [International Nursing Research Conference](#) taking place in September. We look forward to receiving the final strategy for

RCN Institute of Excellence

16. Professor Nicola Ranger and Dr Nichola Ashby, Deputy Chief Nurse, shared a detailed update on progress with development of the RCN Institute of Excellence and set out the agreed remit of each of the five academies beneath the Institute umbrella. We were also briefed on the Institute business case objectives for 2024.
17. We heard that an announcement was imminent on the successful applicant for Director of the Institute and received an update on recruitment of the Associate Director posts for each of the academies. We were delighted at the subsequent announcement of the appointment of

nursing, to be convened by the RCN, and look forward to a discussion on the Congress agenda in June 'redefining learning disability nursing'.

RCN Forums

23. We were delighted to be joined by both Bridie Kent, Chair of the Forums Governance Group, and Paul McAleer, Chair of the Forum Chairs Committee, to receive comprehensive updates on the work of both of those groups.
24. Together, Bridie and Paul highlighted the huge amount of work the forums have achieved over the last year and the vital contribution they continue to make to the professional voice of the RCN.
25. We were also updated on planned changes to the governance rules currently affecting the effective functioning of the forums which were subsequently agreed by Council in April, to encourage and support member engagement and involvement. The forums will be promoted at Congress and a third World Café event is planned to continue to raise the profile of the forums and promote member engagement in their work.

UK Staffing for Safe and Effective Care (SSEC)

26. Safe staffing remains our most critical workstream. Building on the outcomes from the [international safe staffing summit](#) in December we looked ahead to the second summit which took place the

