





The Director took the Board through the report and highlighted the following:

The Voice of Nursing event at the Senedd last September was well attended and provided an opportunity for members to provide Members of the Senedd with lived experiences.

The Director attended the Plaid Cymru conference last October with the Vice Chair of Board and engaged with the Plaid Cymru Members of the Senedd.

The evidence session at the Welsh Parliament Health Committee importantly reviewed the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016. The Board Chair also gave evidence and provided lived experience. A report is awaited on the findings of the committee.

Meetings with Executive Directors of Nursing and Heads of Schools of Nursing continue. Support for another RCN PhD student is being explored with the Deans and Chief Nursing Officer.

Visits to A&E departments have been undertaken to understand firsthand the challenges faced by members. A joint visit is being planned with the Chief Nursing Officer to the Grange Hospital.

A closer relationship is developing with the Chief Executive at Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and quarterly meetings are in place. HEIW have split the Executive Director of Nurse and Health Professional Education and advertised a new Director of Education post. The post will need to be a registrant, however not necessarily of nursing.

Introduction meeting was held in December for the Social Partnership Council. This has been formed under the procurement law, appointed to and Chaired by the First Minister. This has a large remit and still forming and updates will be brought to future Board meetings.

The Director had been invited to join the Pro-Judge stakeholder group and the study event in October shared initial findings. These findings could be useful for future progress and challenge reports.

A concern was raised by the Board regarding the HEIW vacancy if a non-nurse registrant is appointed. The website advises a doctor or dentist could apply. The Board were advised this appointment is being monitored.

### 3.3 Correspondence report

A report had been received and was noted.

The Director reminded the Board that correspondence is available to view by contacting the Director's office.



of work around occupational health which will influence the work carried out on behalf of RCN Wales.

- Work is being carried out by the UK Government on the provision of occupational health services, although this work has not yet been published and its content not been shared. This may also influence the work carried out for RCN Wales.
- Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) have recently confirmed

experience health inequities and premature and avoidable deaths. Learning disability nurses have a key role to play but workforce numbers are declining. A coordinated, strategic approach to addressing this situation is required.

- A strategic plan is recommended alongside monitoring and coordinating current practice. The Board were invited to comment and ask questions.

The Board asked what the prioritised areas were and how the RCN could assist. It was advised that although Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW) have been trying to improve recruitment, only half the number of places were commissioned and only half of these were filled. Many roles are not hospital based and not always seen and considered by students. There is a role for the RCN with messaging and promotion and the learning disability event was very positive.

The Board asked how supportive health boards are to placements in this area. It was confirmed that generally the support is there but placements are difficult in community roles.



Regarding waiting times, it was reported that good progress is being made in reducing the number of people waiting for over 2 years on a number of pathways. There are now no patients waiting over 6 years.

The NHS Wales Executive was introduced on 1 April 2023. Phase 1 brought together existing national bodies to operate as the Executive. Phase 2 will provide formal clarification, establishment, and delivery of further functions as part of Phase 2. These include: innovation and







ACTION: A Teams meeting to be set up to discuss a potential emergency item for Congress.

- 6.2 There was a suggestion to hold the fundraising dog walk for the scholarship funds on 12 May to coincide with International Nurses Day.

The Board Chair closed the meeting at 13:05.