

Professional Nursing Committee Report to Members – September 2024

1. This report reflects work done by the Professional Nursing Committee since the last report to Council and an update from our meeting on 17 September 2024.
2. I was unfortunately unable to attend PNC in September so the meeting was chaired by Colin Baker, Vice Chair.
3. Since we last met, the [RCN position statement on registered nurses and nursing associates working in maternity services](#) was published in early September.
4. The 17 September meeting began with a discussion on how the RCN can better raise the voice of its Nursing Support Worker members and how PNC might work more closely with the Nursing Support Workers Committee. We are considering this further outside our meeting.
5. The report of the September meeting follows below.

Chair and Vice Chair's Update

6. Colin updated PNC on my recent activity as Chair including attendance at the RCN International Nursing Research Conference in Newcastle the previous week.
7. I was delighted to also have been able to take part in the celebration event for our Nursing Workforce Standards Champions on 2 August. Following the PNC workshop to discuss the now 3-year old Standards earlier in the year, we look forward to being involved in their formal review and expect an update on our agenda in the new year.
8. I am co-chairing the steering group overseeing the review of the Standards and collated further feedback from PNC to support this process.

Acting Chief Nursing Officer's Update

9. The Committee received an update on the current key priorities of Lynn Woolsey, acting Chief Nursing Officer, and congratulated her on her new role.

10. PNC was briefed on the current status of the NHS pay consultation in England and heard that the deadline for members to vote had been extended. The Committee discussed the RCN's activity to date to ensure as many members as possible used their vote.
11. The Committee discussed the RCN's report launched on World Suicide Prevention Day 2024 '[understanding the factors underpinning suicidal ideation amongst the UK nursing workforce from 2022 – 2024](#)' and were briefed on the statistics showing a rise in nursing staff with suicidal thoughts contacting the RCN for support, with many citing workplace issues as a key factor in why they were seeking help.
12. Lynn informed the Committee that arrangements were in train for the learning disability nursing workforce summit taking place on 22 November and for Nursing Support Workers Day on 23 November.
13. The RCN has also been hosting listening events for nurse educators to hear their concerns regarding the drop in students applying to study nursing and the consequential impact on universities.
14. PNC noted the [RCN's response to Lord Darzi's report](#) on the state of the National Health Service in England and the [RCN's response to the Health Services Safety Investigations Body \(HSSIB\) workforce and patient safety report](#).

RCN Scheme of Delegation

15. The Committee received a presentation on the RCN's revised Scheme of Delegation and noted its new terms of reference. Both of these will be published on the RCN website shortly.

Forum Chairs Committee Terms of Reference

16. PNC agreed updated terms of reference for the Forum Chairs Committee. These will also be published on the RCN website shortly.

RCN Institute of Nursing Excellence

17. The Committee was delighted to be joined again by Jane Ball, Director of the Institute, Marcus Wootton, Associate Director: International, and Trish Hughes, Associate Director; Nursing Practice to receive an update on establishment of the Institute of Nursing Excellence.
18. PNC received an informative presentation on the work plans for each of the academies and the business case being put together to set out the resources that will be needed going forward.

Professional Framework Update

19. PNC received an update on the Professional Framework workstream on Nursing Support Workers and discussed the work involved in phases 1 and 2.
20. The first meeting of the working group took place on 10 October.

Congress 2024 Agenda Items

21. We have now formally agreed the Committee leads for each of the items arising from Congress 2024 allocated to the PNC.
22. Committee members are already in contact with the staff leads for their items. Those who had already attended meetings provided progress updates on the status of the work.
23. We look forward to receiving the first reports on work arising from Congress 2024 at our November meeting.

Strategic Review of Congress

24. Patricia Marquis, Executive Director of RCN England, joined the meeting to brief PNC on the strategic review of Congress.
25. We will be convening again on 28 October to consider our response to the Congress survey and feed in our views to the review.

Position Statement on Healthcare Provision for Autistic People

26. Following discussion on an earlier draft at our meeting in July, PNC received a revised version of the position statement on healthcare provision for autistic people for approval.
27. After some further deliberation and subject to some further minor amendments, we signed off a final version of the position statement by email after the meeting. This will be published on the RCN website shortly.

UK Staffing for Safe and Effective Care (SSEC)

28. As reported previously, the three key workstreams of the safe staffing programme, which sit within the Nursing Workforce Academy, are ratios, ending corridor care and the Nursing Workforce Standards. Work continues to streamline the RCN's work under the programme.

29. The Committee noted that the meeting of the SSEC UK Ratios Steering Group would take place in October. Ahead of that meeting, a smaller group will come together to map out next steps to present at the meeting.
30. The review of the Nursing Workforce Standards was discussed earlier in the meeting – PNC expects to receive a revised set of Standards in the new year for its consideration.
31. In relation to corridor care, the Committee noted that [NHS England issued guidance](#) in September to say care outside of a normal cubicle or ward environment should not be normalised. The RCN continues to take part in discussions with the new CNO for England and NHS England on improving staffing for safe and effective care and minimising corridor care.
32. A corridor care roundtable took place in Wales on 18 September and the RCN continues to engage in other roundtables taking place with the other Royal Colleges and the Care Quality Commission.

Next Meeting

33. The next formal PNC meeting takes place at RCN HQ on 19 November 2024.
34. We have also scheduled a ‘deep dive’ on Monday 28 October to consider our Committee response to the survey on the strategic review of Congress.

Rachel Hollis FRCN
Chair, Professional Nursing Committee
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Committee Membership 2024

Rachel Hollis (Yorkshire and the Humber – CHAIR)
Colin Baker (South West – VICE CHAIR)
Oladunni Akinbulumo (North West)
Alisha Brown (Student)
Aquiline Chivinge (East Midlands)
Mary Codling (South East)
Tracie Culpitt (Nursing Support Worker)
Donna Gallagher (Northern Ireland)
Martha Gill (Scotland)
Tim Grace (Northern)
Sonia Henry (London)
Raymond McMorro (West Midlands)
Carolyn Middleton (Wales)
Alison Paterson (Eastern)

Apologies for the September meeting were received from Rachel Hollis, Alisha Brown, Aquiline Chivinge and Alison Paterson.

Staff Attendance

Lynn Woolsey (Acting Chief Nursing Officer)

Caroline Clinker (Governance Adviser)

Antonia Borneo (Head of Policy and Public Affairs – UK & International)

Patricia Marquis (Executive Director: RCN England)

Jane Ball (Director, RCN Institute of Nursing Excellence)

Patricia Hughes (Associate Director: Nursing Practice)

Marcus Wooton (Associate Director: International)

Maxine Nunn (Performance, Risk and Assurance Manager)

Jonathan Beebee (Professional Lead: Learning Disability Nursing)

Lena Johnson (Professional Lead: Nursing Workforce)