

## Cancer Forum Annual Report - 2024

**Name of Forum Chair:** Ethna McFerran

**Name of Professional Lead:** Callum Metcalfe-O'Shea

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### **Forum Name & Introduction:**

The Cancer forum aims to support nursing staff working in any clinical area who may encounter patients living both with and beyond cancer. Our work has continued to include development on issues linked with prevention, screening, treatment, and the interface with palliative care service provision. Our members work within the NHS, private, and the third sector as well as academia. We strive to represent the four nations in all the work that we do.

This year particularly we have been able to showcase issues related to the care delivered amongst marginalised groups and areas of practice that often are not highlighted, including co-presenting an RCN Congress item on the impact of humanitarian crises on cancer care, championing physical activity in cancer care and supporting members of the LGBTQI+ group in accessing cancer services.

### **Membership of the forum:**

- Any trends - Increase/decrease of membership on previous year with commentary on what may have attributed to the change
  - Current forum count: 6613 and first choice: 3515
  - Last forum count 12 months ago: 6257 and first choice 12 months ago: 3363
  - Therefore in 12 months we have seen an increase in forum count of 356 members with an increase in first choice of forum of 152 members – *a 5.69% increase in count overall*
  - Increase attributed to enhanced engagement with members through social media, use of MCC and providing educational webinars to maximise awareness and visibility of the forum
  - Additionally, forum chair and Professional Lead engaged with voting members and members of the Cancer Forum widely through congress to maximise awareness and engagement with members
  - The forum has built external relationships with key organisations such as Macmillan and UKONs to share widely the presence of the forum and how supporting nursing staff working in cancer care
  
- Committee membership – vacancies, number of applications this year
  - Chair standing down from committee due to term ending
  - 6x vacancies present on the steering committee
  - Both Chair and Deputy chair positions applied and filled for 2025 committee
  - 7 applications to the steering committee, 1 candidate pulled out before interviews, 1 x unsuccessful candidate following interview, 5 x successful candidates at interview starting a mixture of 4-year and 2-year terms as of Jan 2025
  - 1x vacancy still present in Jan 2025 due to Chair standing down due to term ending

### **Reflections on 2024 (Outputs and outcomes)**

- FGG projects submitted and approved
  - Successful FGG submission for continuation of membership with European Oncology Society as an organisation – this gives the RCN opportunity to be involved and aware of international practice that we can share with members. Additionally, forum committee member Vanessa sits on within the educational aspect of this committee which can feed into RCN Cancer Forum activity.
- Events and conferences
  - Humanitarian Crisis and the impact on Cancer Nursing Congress item (May 2024), followed by a successful abstract submission to the European Cancer Summit (Nov 2024) in which Head of International Nursing attended on behalf of RCN Cancer Forum
  - RCN and MOVE against Cancer Collaboration – over 100 registered delegates signed up for collaboration webinar around importance of physical activity in cancer and what programmes are available for nurses to sign post too
  - LGBTQI+ Cancer Care Conference invitation – invitation to attend and represent the RCN at national conference to build relationships and external collaborations
- Congress related information – resolutions/matters for discussion submitted
  - Emergency item submission for matter for discussion on humanitarian crisis nursing in warzones with focus on cancer care in collaboration with the Professional Nursing Committee – *subsequently covered by multiple nursing press agencies highlighting Cancer Forum involvement (see above conference abstract)*
  - We supported several non-committee members to attend RCN Congress and participate as Cancer Forum voting members, using the opportunity to highlight the opportunity and requirements for the selection process for new committee members. Three candidates from this were ultimately successful following a rigorous interview process. This marks an important step in ensuring a diverse and skilled committee to advance the goals of the forum.
- Collaboration/ projects with stakeholders e.g. colleges, DOH

Following a strategic plan to map and engage with a broad range of stakeholders in the Cancer Nursing workforce we set out a range of networking meetings and relationship building meetings, several of which have translated to more integrated communication and planning activities, as well as strategically addressing inequalities and the need to showcase diversity and inclusion approaches to our committee's work.

For example,

  - UKONs = development of a draft memorandum of understanding, and the new commitment to share communication through their breaking news content. Plan to link blogs, events and other content through this communication channel.
  - EONs = successful FGG bid to remain a member of EONs for which a committee member sits on the educational board
  - NHS England = invitation to join Royal College bimonthly meetings to discuss cancer related projects with nursing input
  - Macmillan = development of quarterly meetings to review professional resources and collaboration work
  - X4 Nation scoping work on the educational structures and offerings for cancer care – webinar series planning

- MOVE against Cancer = successful completion of collaborative webinar promoting physical activity in cancer
  - Outpatients and UCATs = relationship building to support development of a two-part series of webinars discussing transgender care and cancer care respectively, in collaboration with the Womens' Health, Fertility and other Forum committees.
  - International Conference Abstract submission = working to support a Forum member to translate their Congress item into an academic publication, and to promote wider dissemination of the import of the impact of humanitarian crises on cancer care, designed in collaboration with the RCN Professional Nursing Committee and ultimately supported internally by the RCN International Nursing team to deliver the poster presentation at the European Cancer Summit conference (Nov 2024).
  - Collaborative work between the Chair and Scottish Ambulance Service / Macmillan partnership has been initiated and is nearing completion, to examine the value proposition of expanded palliative care training for ambulance staff – links developed with Public Health Scotland – a draft academic publication has been prepared along with internal reports/ presentations of the outcomes have been shared with the SAS/Macmillan team.
  - Invitation to Chair to present at the forthcoming RCN Pain & Palliative Care event (March 2025) based on the relationship building between these and the intersectional nature of their respective work.
  - Our forum chair has also participated in the NI CNAMC Meeting, by invitation from the Chair of the Learning Disability Forum to provide advice on LD strategy – further research activity is planned in this area building on this relationship.
  - Planned work to support a webinar on the new guidance on management of menopausal symptoms following treatment of gynaecological cancer – date TBC.
- Projects that were delivered and have closed
- RCN and MOVE against Cancer Webinar - over 100 registered delegates signed up for collaboration webinar around importance of physical activity in cancer and what programmes are available for nurses to signpost too
  - X4 recordings of material to build a showcase in cancer nursing podcast/video series to support ACCEND RCN webpage
  - Decommissioning of 'A Competency Framework for Nurses Providing Care to People with Breast Cancer' due to move towards RCN forum supporting all cancer specialities and information not in date
  - Social media poll for reviewing background of members to ascertain areas of interest for future work – 147 responses with 45% working as a clinical nurse specialist
  - Social media poll of educational requirements for members to understand what members require – 113 responses with 34% highest score for cancer basics for non-specialist resource
  - 5 blog posts through the Cancer Forum from both committee members and forum members
- What has been the main highlight/s of the year for the forum?
- Successful abstract submission from RCN Cancer Chair, forum member and Professional Nursing Committee member around Humanitarian Crisis Cancer Nursing at the European Cancer Summit
  - Collaborative work between the Chair and Scottish Ambulance Service/Macmillan partnership
  - RCN and MOVE against Cancer collaboration with successful 100 delegate registration
  - NHSE invitation to join Royal College Working Group to ensure nursing input in NHSE directives

- What has been the impact of the work undertaken by the forum for the RCN membership (consider 4-country perspective)?
  - Increased membership (see trends - page 1)
  - Supporting access and understanding of different cancer careers through 'showcase' interview series
  - Opening discussions with key organisations of Macmillan and UKONs to consider 4 country working
  - Development of stakeholder mapping to ensure appropriate contacts established in each of the four countries
  
- Are there any informatics or pictures of the forum activity that could be included?



1. 2024, Congress meeting with voting members showcasing activism in this area

- How/what action has the forum committee taken to engage with the wider membership e.g. development of link nurse or expert reference group etc. Indicate any changes or developments in the way that communications take place and what has been the impact
  - Development of a 'showcase' cancer nursing podcast/interview series to support ACCEND webpage
  - Frequent social media posts and polls via X and Facebook to support engagement and generate increased interest into the forum – including 18% increase in X followers
  - Use of MCC to promote any educational resources, webinars and relevant RCN work
  
- Highlight any changes or different ways of working that has been implemented this year
  - Using MCC to communicate directly with members around any upcoming events and updates from the forum committee

- Engaging more frequently via social media with members to keep up to date with current forum projects
- Use of action log to co-ordinate activity in the forum steering committee
- Publications (include link if possible)
  - Decommissioning of 'A Competency Framework for Nurses Providing Care to People with Breast Cancer' [Nurses Providing Care to People with Breast Cancer | Publications | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)
  
- Contribution to Consultations/Policy development e.g. NICE guidelines
  - NICE ovarian cancer quality standard update – *circulated to forum steering committee for comments*
  - NICE draft scope consultation: Breast cancer neoadjuvant chemotherapy and ovarian function suppression - *circulated to forum steering committee for comments*
  - NICE draft scope consultation Advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and management (Partial update) - *circulated to forum steering committee for comments*
  
- Any other relevant information or highlights
  - 6 successful applicants to the forum committee as of 2025
  - Current Chair invited alongside Professional Lead to present at RCN Pain and palliative care conference in March 2025
  - Facebook membership currently 306 members with 24 members joining since Jan 2024
  - X followers currently at 494 (18% increase since 2023)

#### **RCN Representations:**

RCN Cancer Forum have been involved in representation particularly with NHS England in their Royal Colleges overview against the national cancer strategy. This has allowed the voice of nursing to be recognised in national discussions and support with ensuring that the nursing agenda is recognised in future across England. Additionally, we were invited to attend LGBTQI+ Cancer Conference in London to feedback to the committee and ensure a nursing voice is present in these important discussions.

#### **Plans for 2025:**

- Cancer Forum invited to speak at the Pain and Palliative Care Forum Conference
- LGBTQI+ webinar to deliver education on cancer care for transgender patients in newly developed collaboration with charity Outpatients and the UCATs team
- Development of resource for non-cancer specialists to support education and understanding in a variety of different settings
- Creation of a cancer nursing overview journey from primary to acute care that identifies the different professionals, skills and value they contribute at the stage of each patient journey
- Plan attendance at national conferences (UKONs) and events to ensure RCN representation present and work with members.