

April 2025

Independent Sector Newsletter

NMC Fitness to Practice (FtP) and Supporting Information of Employers (SIFE) event.

Tuesday, 11 and Wednesday, 26 February 2025

The NMC hosted the RCN Independent Sector (IS) event, which Pamela Craig and Loucia Kyprianou delivered. This event, organised by the RCN NI Independent Sector Nurse Managers Network (ISNMN), focused on Fitness to Practice (FtP) and SIFE for nursing home managers. The sessions covered various topics, including referrals and outcomes, the NMC's approach to FtP, forms of impairment and sanctions, important considerations regarding NMC referrals, a just culture, and the importance of context, illustrated with case scenarios.

The supporting information for employers (SIFE) session also examined how this form of employer reference can assist internationally educated professionals in registering with the NMC. However, SIFE is only valid with other forms of English language evidence.

RCN Northern Ireland Independent Sector (RCNNI) Network meetings 2025

IS School Nurse Network	
Tuesday 15 April 2025	3.30pm-4.30pm
Tuesday 23 June 2025	3.30pm-4.30pm
Tuesday 14 October 2025	3.30pm-4.30pm
Tuesday 16 December 2025	3.30pm-4.30pm

ISNMN - Agency Nurse Manager meeting -		
Venue: 17 Windsor Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6EE		
Date	Time	Guest speaker
Tuesday 13 May 2025	10am - 12noon	Pamela Craig (NMC)
Tuesday 1 July 2025	10am - 12noon	Caroline Holloway (SPPG Safeguarding)
Monday 22 September 2025	10am - 12noon	Mervyn Bothwell (NISCC)
Tuesday 18 November 2025	10am - 12noon	-

ISNM NETWORK	
Tuesday 15 April 2025	10am-12.30pm
Monday 19 May 2025	10am-12.30pm
Tuesday 8 July 2025	10am-12.30pm
Monday 18 August 2025	10am-12.30pm
Tuesday 7 October 2025	10am-12.30pm
Tuesday 25 November 2025	10am-12.30pm
Monday 15 December	10am-12.30pm

Independent Sector Network	
Monday 28 April 2025	3pm-4pm
Monday 21 July 2025	3pm-4pm
Monday 20 October 2025	3pm-4pm

Upcoming events -

Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year 2025,
watch out for the winners on 5 June 2025

Podcasts -

1. Reps in action: How Learning Reps are transforming the independent sector [Celine Shannon and Brenda Rushe].

Blogs

RCN NI IHSC Lead Nurse Brenda Rushe's Blog.

“Making Connections: Exciting events and initiatives for Independent Sector Nurses and Healthcare Assistants/Nursing Assistants in 2025”

"The hidden impact of our independent sector school nurse: legends insights from a doctor shadowing"

Dr McAvoy shadows his mum, Michelle McAvoy, School Nurse at Sullivan Upper School in Holywood.

Further news

RCN NI IHSC Lead is Co-Chairing the NIPEC Competency/Education Subgroup - Care Home Nursing Career Pathway. This ongoing work marks the first Career Pathway for Nurses employed in Nursing Homes.

The RCN UK-Wide IHSC team won the Wellbeing At Work award at the Women Achieving Greatness in Social Care Awards 2024. Baroness Floella Benjamin presented the awards, representing the significant impact the IHSC team is making on RCN members and the wider sector. The RCN Northern Ireland IHSC Lead Nurse, Brenda Rushe, is part of this team and was present to receive the award in November 2024.



Janet Montgomery



It is with great sadness that we reflect on the passing of Janet, one of the directors of Hutchinson Care Homes, on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

Janet started her career as a mental health nurse and later became a registered general nurse, further expanding her nursing skills. In 1990, she assumed the manager role at the private nursing home owned by her parents and, in 2000, moved into a more senior leadership position focused on strategic business development.

Throughout her career, Janet was a passionate advocate for the rights and dignity of older individuals in nursing homes, actively campaigning in various roles within the independent sector. She consistently championed the value of nursing and the Royal College of Nursing. Janet continues to be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Upcoming events



RCN NI Independent Sector Events 2025

FEB
11

NMC – Fitness To Practice for Managers & SIFE

10:00am-12:00pm, 12.30-1:00pm, & 2:00-4:00pm

Speaker: Pamela Craig, NMC

AUG
26

The Rise of long-term conditions in IHSC: Are We Ready?

2:00-4:00pm

Speaker: Callum Metcalfe-O'Shea, RCN

FEB
26

NMC – Fitness To Practice for Managers & SIFE

10:00am-12:00pm, 12.30-1:00pm, & 2:00-4:00pm

Speaker: Pamela Craig, NMC

OCT
21

Accountability & Delegation

2:00-4:00pm

Speaker: Rosaline Kelly, RCN

APRIL
16

RQIA – Good Governance

2:00-4:00pm

Speaker: RQIA

NOV
03

Congress Resolution Submissions

2:00-4:00pm

Speaker: Stephanie Craig, QUB

JUNE
18

Education, Learning and Development

2:00-4:00pm

Save the date!

Further information and registration will be available closer to each event date

www.rcn.org.uk/northernireland



For more information

Please check out our [website](http://www.rcn.org.uk).

Or email Brenda Rushe - brenda.rushe@rcn.org.uk