

Royal College of Nursing South-West Regional Board

Minutes of Meeting held on

Thursday 25th May 2023

Open Minutes

In Attendance

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| VB - Vicky Brotherton | Board Chair & Plymouth Member |
| NG - Natasha Goswell | Vice Chair & Branch |
| JJ - Jeanette Jones | Council Member & Greater Bristol Branch |
| KB - Kirsten Bland | Dorset Branch |
| CE - Cathy Ellingford | Devon Branch |
| EH - Emma Hallam | Trade Union Committee |
| NS - Netty Snelling | Wiltshire Branch |
| MS - Matthew Stewart | Gloucestershire Branch |
| AT - Ashleigh Taylor | Greater Bristol Branch |
| CB - Colin Baker | Professional Nurse Committee |

Staff in Attendance

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| LM - Lucy Muchina | RCN, Regional Director |
| SP - Steven Pulsford | RCN, Operational Manager |
| TA - Tony Aspinall | RCN, Regional Service Manager & Board Administrator |
| VL - Vicky Lander | RCN, Regional Administrator & Board Minute Taker |
| TR – Tracey Roberts | RCN, Regional Comms Manager |

Guests

LN - Leonore Newson
DF - Dawn Francis
CM - Chris Musgrave
LJ - Lena Johnson

Apologies

Nic Browning

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Item 1. | Welcome & apologies for absence |
|----------------|--|

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| | <p><i>Vicky Brotherton, Board Chair – South West Region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VB welcomed everyone to this open session. • Apologies: NB • Welcomed guests: Dawn Francis / Lenore Newson / Edward Speyer. • JJ joined 14:30 after council meeting. • Patricia Marquis joined the meeting 14:30 to give an ADHOC update on resolutions. <p>ADHOC: Chris Musgrave joined the meeting to give a talk on pensions talk..</p> <p>ACTION: TA to share CM contact details for the board should they have any questions.</p> <p>ADHOC: Lena Johnson, professional lead for RCN gave a talk around the Nursing Workforce Standards. LJ gave an update for the path ahead for the standards which is looking at legislation, escalation guidance, and pay. There are 14 in total NWS that the RCN has set out. LJ went through in detail each of the standards. She encouraged the board to sign up and encourage reps to become a champion for the NWS. LJ went onto explain what would be expected from a champion, and the support given. NWS Champions is a new role being promoted.</p> |
| <p>Item 2.</p> | <p>Minutes and actions from the previous meeting <i>Vicky Brotherton, Board Chair – South West Region</i></p> <p>2.1 To agree accuracy of the minutes – All ok.</p> <p>2.2 To review the actions from the last meeting – None.</p> <p>2.3 Matters arising not covered by the agenda – None.</p> |
| <p>Item 3.</p> | <p>Key messages from closed session of the board meeting <i>Vicky Brotherton, Board Chair – South West Region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding Respect Charter to governance as 9.6 to the ongoing agenda. And looking at militant work and communication with mbrs, between mbrs. • If members are looking at rep's role and becoming one, encourage them to speak with current reps. • Getting out the vote (GOTV). • Looking at the makeup of the SW members, with a focus on the independent sector to feel included within the strategy. |
| <p>Item 4.</p> | <p>Items to declare under Any Other Business <i>Vicky Brotherton, Board Chair – South West Region</i></p> |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| | None. |
| Item 5. | Decision and Discussion Items None |
| Item 6. | Consultation Items None |
| Item 7. | <p>Communications <i>Tracey Roberts, RCN South West Communications Manager</i></p> <p>7.1 Communications Report – TR asked the Board group if happy with the content of the comms report. Current content isn't as topical due to GOTV. TR raised the issue around social media accounts that have been opened by people who have now left roles and cannot access these accounts now. TR looking at how to access these accounts to close them down, and how new ones can be re-vamped. TR asked the board to contemplate doing a blog as they are extremely positive to share with members. TR encouraged the board group to utilise her comms abilities to help with any ideas the board group might have.</p> <p>7.2 Pay – Current pay award relates to award made in April 2022. This is set to continue as members voted to reject. Now the ballot to strike is back out to members from 23 May to June 23, which is a postal ballot. Members can expect to get their postal ballot papers by Friday this week, 26th. Members could ask for a re-issue if mishap happened with paper up to the 11th June. This must be posted back by midnight 21st June. A planned programme of activity is being managed by activists, organisers, RCN staff and reps. Trying to steer this away from ward walks due to patients' privacy. This will in turn ease the trusts management concerns. The aim is to visit trusts 2/3 times a week. TR also asked to please let her know what activity plans the board group and reps are making, to track activity to show the RCN ET.</p> <p>Independent Sector Pay – TR informed there is an increase in activity, and as an organisation were looking at how we can better our pro-activity to better the pay award for them. More will come to light on this soon.</p> <p>7.3 Congress 2023 <i>Verbal feedback from Congress from those who attended.</i> DF - Very enjoyable and first time at congress. Also, it's a lot to take in over 5 days and can be overwhelming at times, with the crossing over of subjects. KB – Enjoyed congress. Keynote speeches were all on the first day, whereas might be good to share between the 5 days.</p> |

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| | <p>MS – Led a debate from branch which took a lot of energy but did go very well. Also felt this was a better congress than last years.</p> <p>LN – This was a better congress than Glasgow. A lot of work was completed, and Gloucestershire did amazing to get a resolution. The cost of food was expensive with the £6 allowance not covering the cost. This should be taken into consideration when choosing a venue. Respect Charter also needs to be high on all agendas.</p> <p>CE – Asked what action the RCN is taking with regards to the chair / vice chair’s poor verbal management towards congress attendees? VB updated that two people from congress and council are writing to the RCN to report the unacceptable verbal behaviour from the chair and vice chair of congress.</p> <p>AT – This was AT first congress in around 20 years. And felt this was brilliant and a great networking opportunity. Food at the congress party and during event, wasn’t great from the hotel. Respect charter needed to be reiterated as emotions were running high and lots of people had perception on vice chair for congress, as a desirable role. AT found useful the WhatsApp groups, with help for comms during the event. And loved how branches merged and new friends were made.</p> <p>TA – Seeing new faces was encouraging and found out from events team 47% of attendees were new, and who never spoke before, did. TA was impressed with the SW impeccable speeches and represented the region well. Could be work needed on the social side of congress, but for the cost it wasn’t good value for food and service from the hotel. TA felt there was a positive vibe and great mix of people.</p> <p>NG – Really felt they missed out but will go next year. Nothing to report back from Somerset as just started for the branch. Would be good to hear the key headlines from congress. But nothing back from branch attendees yet.</p> |
| <p>Item 8.</p> | <p>Reporting Bodies <i>Task & Finish Groups</i></p> <p>None</p> |
| <p>Item 9.</p> | <p>Council Report <i>Jeanette Jones, Council Member South West Region</i></p> <p>Council report within agenda papers. JJ had sent apologies for the board meeting. And please refer to JJ if have any questions on the council report.</p> |
| <p>Item 10.</p> | <p>Reports from Governance Committees <i>Emma Hallam, TU Committee member.</i> <i>Colin Baker, PN Committee member</i></p> |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | <p>To acknowledge the content of the minutes from the Governance Committees and to discuss any relevant issues raised.</p> <p>10.1 Trade Union Committee EH went through her report from the last TU Committee Meeting. The report was within the agenda papers.</p> <p>10.2 Professional Nursing Committee CB gave key updates on the Nursing Committee report, report was within the agenda papers.</p> <p>10.3 Nursing Support Workers Committee Report within agenda papers.</p> <p>10.4 Students Committee Report within agenda papers.</p> <p>10.5 Reps Committee LN gave key points from stewards committee meeting, and its being raised that reps are having IT issues. With RCN not having materials/ IT items for reps to be able to manage their cases. TA updated when members leave the reps roles, they can often not return the materials / laptops and iPads etc. LN also said banding from 5 to 6 was raised at the meeting.</p> |
| <p>ADHOC</p> | <p>Patricia Marquis – Resolutions to AGM.</p> <p>PM gave an overview of the upcoming AGM. Board group attendees welcome to join the AGM this year 10th July. And there are some new resolutions going to AGM this year, as well as normal ones. Formal notice including the agenda resolution will be published around 16 June. It's being recommended pushing through 3x resolutions. They are as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extension to Council members terms of reference. PM gave details of the resolution and around extending council member period of office to extend from this December 2023 for another year until later 2024. 2. Member Subscriptions. Resolution 2 will ask members to approve a further 5-year dispensation for Council to set member subscriptions. Subscriptions haven't increased since 2014 and that was only 1%. Subscriptions won't increase this year. 3. EGM Threshold, relating to increasing the threshold needed to call an extraordinary general EGM meeting. Both KPMG and CARR welcome this. <p>PM finished presentation.</p> <p>TA went onto say the board can attend the AGM, which can be funded by the branch if attending in a branch capacity. Branch could fund travel but will need to pay their own accommodation. Or if wouldn't get</p> |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| | <p>home until after 10pm due to logistics and travel options, this can be funded by the RCN, but within branch funds.</p> <p>KB – Regarding resolution 1, will this be a conflict of interest due to council requesting the extension of membership, for council. Does this professionally have an impact. TA will go back to PM to advise this question was raised.</p> |
| Item 11. | <p>Items from Governance</p> <p>None</p> |
| Item 12. | <p>Any Other Business <i>Vicky Brotherton, Board Chair – South West Region</i></p> <p>AT – Spoke with employment relations at congress, and discussed the idea, and would like to do a SW regional ballot for strike to see what can be done. AT wanted to run it past the board group. VB asked AT to produce a paper and send this around.</p> <p>LM – 5-year strategy. LM gave a handout detailing the different areas of work within the strategy plan, and where the board members can join in to contribute to an activity of their choice</p> <p>ACTION: Board members to let LM know what area they'd like to be actively part of for the 5-year strategy plan.</p> <p>EH – NBT banding 2/3s and previous issues around that, are now moving forward and cleared up. EH can give updates on how this was worked and tips to help other patches.</p> |
| | Close of meeting 15:20 |

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st September 2023

Membership: Colin Baker, Kirsten Bland, Vicky Brotherton (Chair), Nicholas Browning, Cathy Ellingford, Emma Hallam, Natasha Goswell (Vice-Chair), Jeanette Jones (Council Member - South West), Netty Snelling, Matthew Stewart, and Ashleigh Taylor