

July 2009 – Issue 15

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Scottish Government listens to RCN on future of community nursing

Following 18 months' work on behalf of members, RCN Scotland has brokered a landmark agreement with the Scottish Government on the future of community nursing in Scotland. In response to members' grave concerns, the Government has set out a new approach to community nursing, which will ensure that the specialist skills of health visitors, district nurses and school nurses will not now be lost.

Under this new approach, reform will no longer be on the controversial generic community health nurse role (CHN), which is currently being 'piloted' in a small number of areas. Rather, a Modernising Community Nursing Board will shortly be established, with the broad remit of modernising community nursing services throughout NHS Scotland, based on a team approach.

RCN Scotland will work in partnership with the Government and other trade unions to develop a community nursing service fit for the future. There is no 'quick fix' solution and changes to how services are delivered are inevitable. However, RCN Scotland has already played a pivotal role in getting this far and will continue to represent your interests and those of the wider nursing community, now and into the future.

For more information visit the [RCN Scotland website](#).

RCN Scotland proud at Pride Scotia

RCN Scotland staff and members took part in Edinburgh's 'Pride Scotia' event earlier this month. The event included a march and exhibition, and RCN Scotland took the opportunity to highlight the RCN's commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues and to diversity and equality in all areas. RCN Scotland Professional Officer Paul Mathews,



RCN Scotland members and staff took part in Pride Scotia

who co-ordinated the RCN Scotland contribution, said: "The day was great fun and it was a great opportunity to engage with our LGBT members, and to show the RCN's commitment to diversity and equality in all areas."

News Round-up

2009 RCN council elections

RCN Council, which is responsible for the governance of the RCN, is [holding elections](#). Two seats are up for election in Scotland. The closing date for ballots is 28 August, and results will be announced on 1 September.

Get involved with RCN Scotland

There are lots of ways to find out more about what's going on at RCN Scotland and how you can get involved – start by [telling us](#) about your areas of interest and we'll keep you informed.

Activist conference in November

The 2009-10 annual conference for RCN activist (including stewards, learning and health and safety representatives and branch executives) will take place on 30 November 2009 rather than the usual February. Contact [Jan Gorman](#) for details.

Spend on nursing, not consultant awards says RCN Scotland

[RCN Scotland](#) has called on the Scottish Government to spend the £28 million that currently finance distinction awards for consultants on frontline services like community nursing.

Public Health Act brought forward

In the wake of the recent pandemic, the Scottish Government has decided to implement new laws to protect the public from infectious diseases much earlier than planned. [RCN Scotland](#) is concerned that this new Public Health Act, which will now come into force in September this year, may have major implications for some nursing staff and shortened timescales may mean limited training and consultation with staff.

Your views on diabetes care needed

RCN Scotland needs your views on the Scottish Government consultation on [the future of diabetes care](#) in Scotland. Read the consultation and let the [RCN Scotland Policy Team](#) know what you think by the end of July to have your say.

Police investigation at Vale of Leven ends

RCN Scotland has welcomed news that police investigations into the Clostridium difficile outbreak at the [Vale of Leven Hospital](#) will now stop. Theresa Fyffe, Director of RCN Scotland, said that the planned public inquiry must now move ahead quickly so that lessons can be learnt.

Could you be Scotland's Nurse of the Year?

The search is on for Scotland's Nurse of the Year 2009. If you know someone who deserves recognition for their exceptional nursing work, nominate them for the RCN Scotland [Nurse of the Year Award](#). The Award is part of the Scottish Health Awards 2009, and shortlisted nominees will attend the ceremony in Edinburgh in November.

Supporting Better Care: Development programme for health and social care support workers

RCN Scotland has launched a new [development programme](#) for all healthcare support workers and nursing assistants. The flexible programme will run across 2009/2010 and is an opportunity to enhance knowledge, practice, competence and confidence in direct care.

'Superbug supremo' appointed

The [Scottish Government](#) have appointed Susan Brimelow as Chief Inspector of the new Healthcare Environment Inspectorate.

RCN and nursing issues in the Scottish media:

- [Community nursing success](#)
- [Alcohol statistics](#)
- [Vale of Leven Hospital](#)
- [Swine Flu \(H1N1\)](#)

MSP says NHS 24 'extremely impressive'

Scottish Liberal Democrat MSP Ross Finnie has been to see NHS 24 in action in Cardonald, in a visit organised by RCN Scotland.

Mr Finnie had previously expressed serious concerns about NHS 24, and the visit was arranged to allow him to see the service at work first hand and appreciate the highly professional work of the staff involved.

Following the visit, in a Scottish Parliament debate on Swine Flu, Mr Finnie challenged other MSPs, explaining his recent visit and informing others that the NHS 24 service was 'extremely impressive'.

Forthcoming Events

2 September 2009

[Workshop for health and social care support workers](#)

Joint RCN Scotland and Open University career development workshop for health and social care support workers, held at Stracathro Hospital in Angus.

18 September 2009

[RCN Nephrology Forum workshop](#)

RCN event for practice nurses or those involved in the screening and management of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), explaining measuring, screening and managing CKD. Held at RCN Scotland HQ in Edinburgh.

5 October 2009

[Workshop for health and social care support workers](#)

Joint RCN Scotland and Open University career development workshop for health and social care support workers, to be held at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary.

10 October 2009

[Gude Cause: march for women's suffrage](#)

March in Edinburgh celebrating 100 years of the women's suffrage movement. Nurses took part in the march exactly 100 years ago, and organisers are looking for support from all.

28 October 2009

[Thrombosis and Anti Thrombotic Therapy](#)

Symposium and meeting held by Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh on thrombosis, on Queen Street in Edinburgh. All nursing staff with an interest welcome.

30 November – 1 December 2009

[RCN Scotland Activist Conference](#)

Annual RCN Scotland conference for activists, including stewards, branch executives, learning and health and safety representatives. To be held at Beardmore Hotel in Clydebank.

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