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Contributions for the next issue should reach the editor by 21 June 2007:

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Letter from the Chair

Best wishes for 2007!

It's time to take stock of the previous year and plan for the future. Within sexual health, it seems to have been another roller-coaster of change. Last year, each of us will have had professional challenges and, hopefully, achievements, as well as some disappointments. RCN Sexual Health Advisors Kathy French and Colin Roberts are busy working on the issues that affect you in practice, and those of us on the Forum Steering Committee continue to chip away at the coal face. Extra pressure has been put on services by financial constraints, due to primary care trust (PCT) financial deficits. The money for improvement to sexual health services through Choosing Health has, in many areas, not been able to be released by the PCTs, frustrating planned developments and, in some areas, has caused posts to be frozen.

And yet...

The good news is that nurses are proving to be flexible and imaginative in their approach to delivering a quality service, and developing practice. Our forum conference last June was a showcase of innovative work, and we hope to see further evidence of this at our conference in 2007. We have taken note of the fact that many of you could only manage a one-day conference, so have arranged to hold it at the same venue as last year, in London, on Saturday, 16 June. Do come and share your work, and plans, and meet up with old friends.

Those of you who came to last year's conference will remember we were holding a consultation, using a questionnaire, to ask your views on the future of the forum and its potential for becoming a sexual health 'faculty' or 'umbrella' group. You will see in this newsletter a summary of your views,

and also the winners of Marks & Spencer tokens, who were chosen at random from those who responded.

An initial response to your comments has instigated a meeting to investigate a 'journal' that would enable a fuller coverage of sexual health issues and encourage publication of examples of best practice. The other immediate response has been to initiate sexual health roadshow meetings around the country (see page six for dates and contact details for time and venue). If you don't go, you won't know what you're missing!

Lastly, we have had some changes on the Forum Steering Committee. We have to say goodbye and thank you to Carmel Kelly, who has been the representative for Northern Ireland on the committee for many years, and we also say farewell and thanks to Joy Hall. We will miss you and all your hard work and enthusiasm, but hope you will continue to contribute through membership of the forum. We welcome Joanna Gregg, who will now represent Northern Ireland, and Ros Delaney, who many of you will know in the field of contraception. Colin Roberts left the Steering Committee to help Kathy French with the adviser's busy schedule for six months, but I have invited him back to the committee now that this secondment is over. Colin has also been volunteered to take over the editing of *Sexual Health Bulletin* for the future, and I know he would really welcome contributions from you! Please contact him at email: colin.roberts@nhs.net

I look forward to the summer, and meeting up with you at the conference in June.

Jacky Rogers

Updates from the Adviser

Forum Chair JACKY ROGERS reports on RCN Sexual Health Adviser Kathy French's latest news.

Kathy continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the forum, her day-to-day work at the RCN focuses around issues of employment, prescribing, extended roles and insurance, and she responds to members' concerns about these, as well as attending professional meetings on abortion and contraception. She represents the forum at Department of Health (DH) meetings, and has been actively working with other professional organisations. Recently, Kathy has also

attended a meeting on implementation of the NICE long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) guidelines and felt nurses were in a strong position to influence their use. She also presented at the RCN Prison Nurses Forum Conference in October 2006, which was well evaluated, and noted that some good links were developed from that day.

Please also note that:

- Sub-dermal implant guidelines have been updated and will be on the RCN website soon.
- A competency document for pelvic bi-manual examination is in the draft stage and will go out for consultation.
- The Sexual Health Competencies document is now due for revalidation and will be updated this year.

- The role of health care assistants working in sexual health services has been a hot topic, and work will start at the end of December 2006 to develop competencies for this highly valued group of colleagues. This competency document will be out for consultation in 2007.
- The Chancellor has reduced VAT on condoms. This saving will be passed to services, but the cost of slot machine condoms remains the same.

Kathy wishes to thank Colin Roberts for his help and support over the past few months in his role as RCN Sexual Health Adviser, noting how much she has enjoyed working with him.

Jacky Rogers

HIV support in action

Committee member COLIN ROBERTS reports.

HIV continues to dominate the health economy of the UK and the latest information from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) reveals an estimated 63,500 adults are now living with HIV in the UK. This includes both those who have been diagnosed and also around a third (20,100) who remain unaware of their infection. This is of concern to all health care professions who provide sexual health services.

The high level of new HIV diagnoses continued in 2005 with 7,450 cases recorded, including 2,400 new cases

among men who have sex with men (MSM). Three in every hundred MSMs attending a sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinic last year acquired their HIV infection in 2005, most probably within the UK. Health promotion activities must not be scaled down nor can nurses avoid talking about the difficult issues around maintaining safer sex, even if both persons are HIV positive.

Many of you are aware of the RCN's support to the Sparrow School – the school in South Africa for children orphaned by HIV. Yet this is not the only

HIV work undertaken by RCN staff. The Aysanew Kassa Trust is a charity that provides support to children, including those HIV infected and affected in Ethiopia. Jean Bailey, one of the RCN's professional nursing department (PND) advisers, plays a pivotal role in the ongoing work of the charity, which helps sponsor educationally bright children in Azezo, Ethiopia. Azezo is ten kilometres from Gondar City in northern Ethiopia, where more than 50 per cent of the population is under 15 years of age. Since its inception, 80 children have completed their education and benefited from the generous sponsorships. One such young person benefiting from the charity is Daniel, a 15 year old who has HIV and diabetes. An excerpt from his latest letter tells of his daily struggle:

“Now the weather condition is good, it is hot, the rain is stopping. The flowers are withered, the crops being cultivated. The condition is safer, peace, no war... I am very much at a condition of home sick, I am eager to see your beloved face, glad to see you soon then. The day is long to dusk, the night is long to dawn. Love from my deepest heart, your Daniel.”

Cervical Screening RCN guidance for good practice

This booklet is aimed at qualified nurses and midwives and describes good practice for taking cervical samples. It sets cervical screening in context, considering issues such as professional accountability, consent and confidentiality. It then goes through a consultation in detail, including details such as preparing for the test, equipment required, environment and the examination itself. It also includes detailed recommendations for further reading and useful websites.

It was launched on 2 December at the RCN Colposcopy Conference in Cardiff and is now available to download at www.rcn.org.uk/publications

Printed copies will be available from RCN Direct from that date.

More information about Aysanew Kassa Trust can be found at www.gondarlink.org.uk. Any donation can be gift aided.

An end to sexual health learning?

The highly successful 15-week RCN sexual health skills distance learning course has only two more intakes before the first three-year validation cycle ends. The future, after that, is currently unknown and under discussion. DAVID EVANS reports.

“I am 15, pregnant, and had sex with two men. Does that mean I’m going to have twins?”

... what one young person asked a participant of the RCN sexual health skills distance learning course.

Applications can be sent in now for the final two courses – the January and April 2007 intakes – but hurry, as January is upon us. The course has attracted over 1,600 nurses, some midwives and other health and social care professionals since it started in 2004.

The majority of students come from primary care settings, particularly practice nurses and school nurses. Judging by the feedback and many of the assignments, there is a clear development of sexual health in their practice settings. Other course participants have come from hospitals and continuing care settings, but these are fewer in number, despite the holistic implications of sexual health being relevant to all people. Some have come from HM Armed Forces, the Prison Service, Youth Work and other health and social care settings, including those for people with learning and physical disabilities, travel nurses, or those working in alcohol and

drug facilities. Whether a client is receiving mental health care, is a patient on an orthopaedic or gynaecology ward, is suffering with coronary problems, or having a baby, then sexual health skills are an integral part of the care package nurses and midwives need to be delivering.

Many of the course participants have so enjoyed the course that they have asked about doing more studies in sexual health. The timing couldn’t be better! Through a grant from Condomania (www.condomania.co.uk), the RCN is collaborating with the University of Greenwich, to provide one of the university’s courses – ‘Promoting sexual health’ – through e-learning. This course started online in January 2007, and can be taken as a stand-alone unit, or as part of the top-up degree in sexual health. More details can be found through the RCN website at ww.rcn.org.uk/sexualhealthlearning, or email: r.t.delaney@gre.ac.uk or N.McBennett@gre.ac.uk

Application forms for the RCN sexual health skills course can be downloaded from www.rcn.org.uk/sexualhealthlearning or contact Martin Wilson, the administrator, on email: sexualhealthlearning@rcn.org.uk or telephone: 020 8331 8692. This double module course is still excellent value for money, at £350!

Adviser’s notes – Colin Roberts

✓ Aesthetics Forum Competency Project – this important working group is now working towards a final draft to be ready for consultation in early February 2007. The document is a specialist competency for advanced nursing practice in the field of HIV. As such, it will have a small print run, but will be an e-document available through the RCN for interested people to download.

✓ As Sexual Health Adviser, I have been the forum representative on the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) Sexually Transmitted Infection Foundation (STIF) Course

Education Committee. This group has just updated the syllabus of the course and I have provided an alternative way to provide the health promotion workshop, which will be participatory rather than the current lecture.

✓ The forum has provided the information for the formal RCN response on policy consultation on *Confidentiality and disclosure of patient information: HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STIs)* – this can be found on the DH website at Gateway: 6075 (also, see article on page seven).

✓ David Evans and I undertook a World AIDS Day event in the foyer of RCN London from noon to 2pm. The

sale of ribbons and keyrings raised £140 – the profits from this are being given to the Sparrow School for HIV orphans in South Africa.

✓ Latest news from the Central Disease Control (CDC) in the USA is about the routine HIV testing of all hospital admissions and A&E attenders. This would have a huge implication for the UK should we follow this guidance.

✓ Work has begun to revise and update the RCN Sexual Health Strategy document. So much has changed since David Evans wrote this and we need to maintain our voice as the leading organisation for nursing in the UK.

As promised, two completed survey forms were chosen, at random, to receive a £50 Marks & Spencer token. Each returned survey was allocated a number for the purposes of collating the results, and at the most recent steering group meeting, two numbers were chosen randomly from the returned forms. The two winners, who have now received their tokens, are Elaine Smith from Bristol and Anne Robinson from Jersey. Token winner Elaine tells us something of her day-to-day work in sexual health ...

Members' survey winners Elaine Smith and Anne Robinson

A bit about my work – Elaine Smith

I have been working in the NHS for many years and when looking for a job in the community I was persuaded to complete one of the then family planning courses – this was the start of my career in sexual health. Since then, my working life has been so varied and interesting. 'Family planning' became 'contraception and sexual health' in Bristol and I am now part of United Bristol Healthcare Trust – Women's and Children's Division. I am a roving worker based in several sites across the city. My client group is culturally diverse and I enjoy the challenges that this brings to my role. In one of my centres, part of my role covers the under 21s service that is used by both young men and women.

Our city centre base is a thriving service with many different services operating, including young person's clinics. The centre is open six days a week. Part of my role is teaching and supervising learners who come through our clinics; this is an enjoyable part of my role. I also work with Brook-Bristol – a fabulous place to work, as it is a drop-in service and I enjoy being able to offer a non-judgemental sexual health service as part of a great team.

There are challenges, and some days these feel immense, such as juggling the demands of time and finance whilst providing high-standard services. These issues are not likely to go away in the short term, so we just smile and get on with it; sexual health is a great place to work.

Survey responses provide valued insight

The RCN Sexual Health Forum would like to thank all those members who took the time to respond to the survey on a potential sexual health faculty/umbrella group. The range of responses was truly enlightening.

The forum mailed out in excess of 4,000 forms to those who had sexual health as either their first, second or third choice of special interest. We received just fewer than 400 responses – slightly less than 10 per cent of the eligible membership.

All four countries were represented, as were several members who live outside of the UK. It was really good to learn the views of people who worked in such a variety of roles. One thing in particular we learned was the huge disparity of salary for similarly named roles. Also, some members have such a huge remit; we were in awe of the scope of some respondents' practice settings. What follows is a synopsis of the comments and choices indicated. The forum was asked to share the anonymised information with the PDF group led by Dame June Clarke. All identifying data was taken off and the collated information, particularly your comments, were made available to this RCN committee.

The top five priorities

1. Increased opportunities to network and share ideas, networking and supporting colleagues.
2. Work on improving nurse-led service opportunities and the extension of the nurse's role, including competencies.
3. A framework to create guidance/competency documents.

4. Professional support and development opportunities.
5. Lining up a critical mass of like-minded people.

Are you a member of any other professional organisation relevant to sexual health?

- 55 per cent of you were members of another organisation relevant to sexual health, apart from the forum.

The top five benefits

- updates
- publications
- professional support/networks
- study days
- conferences.

Would you consider joining an umbrella organisation for sexual health nursing?

- 35 per cent indicated definitely yes, but would keep other memberships
- 6 per cent indicated definitely yes, but would not keep other memberships
- 55 per cent indicated maybe, depending on what was offered
- 4 per cent indicated definitely no.

What you would expect to receive as part of your membership

- regular updates on practice/professional issues
- professional development and education opportunities
- specific sexual health publication(s)
- professional development/education around the UK



BOOK REVIEW

Advanced clinical skills for GU nurses

Editors: Matthew Grundy-Bowers and Jonathan Davies

Published by John Wiley • ISBN -13- 978-0-470-01960-3

This book is a welcome addition to the arena of sexual health. Well-informed government initiatives in sexual health are matched by nurses' enthusiasm and interest to care for patients with poor sexual health. As many of us know, rising incidences of STIs have strained GU clinic resources and new ways of working are required. This important book – aimed at nurses working in GU clinics and those on courses learning these skills in genito-urinary medicine – is therefore timely.

Almost every chapter is written by specialist nurses in the field. This means there is some overlap in subjects, but this

information is always pertinent to the chapter in hand. Thus, the reader is given a very full aspect of each condition or area of examination in an accessible style of writing. Chapters include: taking a sexual history; male genital examination; female genital examination; legal issues in sexual health; HIV pre- and post-discussion; women's sexual health; health promotion and education; skin and lymphatic system; examination of the anus and oral cavity; drugs and pharmacology; patient group directions; and nurse prescribing.

While referencing and further reading provide more information, some of

these refer to basic textbooks, which is slightly disappointing, but this use is minimal and does not take from the usefulness of the book. The chapter on health education and health promotion is fairly standard. I think some tips on skills that can be useful in sexual health promotion would be more beneficial for those nurses who may be working in settings without health advisors. However, on the whole, this book should be recommended for all clinics, as a resource for tutors and mentors and for nurses on courses in GU medicine.

Reviewed by incoming committee member Ros Delaney.

■ network opportunities to share best/innovative practice.

Would you want an email/chatroom type space?

- 67 per cent of the responses indicated definitely yes
- 4 per cent indicated maybe
- 29 per cent indicated definitely not interested.

The following comments are taken directly from your responses and are included so that you can get an idea of how your colleagues feel.

- "Would not want to pay extra. Should be free for any RCN member."
- "Three-monthly newsletter active website."
- "Must be cheap."
- "Concerned that the institute would further fragment choices for nurses, wants to have an integrated doctor and nurse organisation."
- "Would want the 'new group' to liaise with all existing groups to pull together all the information already available."
- "Would expect it to be free, as pay enough already for RCN, expect free local meetings and study days."
- "Want updates on practice sent out, not have to request them! Minimal extra cost."
- "Not so London based."
- "Need to reset the standards for sexual health education like the old ENB courses, so you know what you are getting."
- "Would want faculty to have national recognition like ENB courses used to have."
- "Membership would need to mean something, not just belonging."
- "Want national protocols/practice documents."
- "Would prefer to be in a nurse-led organisation."

NewFill® competency document

Responding to a member query has led to the formation of a working group to look at a competency document for the use of poly-L-lactic acid – also known as NewFill®. This treatment is used for the effects of HIV-drug-associated lipoatrophy. Around the UK there are a number of specialist nurses and doctors who currently undertake this treatment, however, thus far there have been only local guidance documents. This is a highly significant reparative treatment to counter the effects of fat redistribution in HIV wasting. The psychological effects of lipoatrophy can be significant for people who have been on certain HIV drugs.

Using the competency document from the RCN Aesthetic Nurses Forum as a guide, the group has brought together several key documents from existing clinics to form the basis of a new specific competency document. It is anticipated that this document and an associated assessment tool will be completed early in 2007, ideally as an electronic document in PDF that can be downloaded for private use.

For further information on this document, please contact Colin Roberts, who is leading on this for the forum, at email: colin.roberts@nhs.net

The National Review of Genito-Urinary Medicine Services

Forum Chair **JACKY ROGERS** reports.

Many working in GUM clinics will have been part of the review process, which is being undertaken by the Medical Foundation for Aids and Sexual Health (MedFASH). This was commissioned by the DH in 2004 to undertake an assessment of each GUM service in England. It is an initiative that forms part of the DH implementation plan for the National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV. The review aims to:

- undertake a multidisciplinary assessment of GUM services, highlighting factors that help or hinder ability to offer a prompt and high-quality service
- offer formal written recommendations for service improvements and modernisation
- provide findings and recommendations from the review to DH and relevant national bodies.

At each review visit, senior nurses and health advisors have been interviewed on a one-to-one basis, which has provided an opportunity to chart the growing influence these clinicians have on shaping services, and highlight the contribution nursing has made to enable services to develop. Opportunities to meet staff at the workplace have also confirmed awareness of the difficulties and challenging issues facing GUM clinics.

This work will be completed during the early part of 2007.

Project Manager Cathy Harman and Forum Chair Jacky Rogers are part of the central team who have carried out the majority of the nurse/health advisor interviews. Some senior GUM nurses around the UK have contributed to the process of visits and interviews, and we are still looking for further senior nurses to take part. If you are interested, please contact Jacky Rogers at email: jrogers@medfash.bma.org.uk

During the process of the National Review of GUM Services, 48-hour access to GUM clinics has become a top NHS priority, and a target that needs to be implemented by March 2008. In order to facilitate this, *10 high-impact changes for genitourinary medicine 48-hour access* was published in December 2006 (available on DH website).

This document recognises that, in order to improve access for patients' sexual health service, development involves a broader focus and the use of alternative settings to help reduce the pressure on GUM clinics. However, the greatest and quickest impact on achieving the target will be within existing GUM services, and the document provides guidance for PCTs and GUM service providers, using a best practice approach through the use of case studies.

FORUM ROADSHOW 2007

Sexual Health Forum Steering Committee members will be holding the following meetings around the UK in 2007:

ABERDEEN

- 2 March – Berry Street

CORNWALL

- 9 March – White Hart Hotel (St Austell)

LONDON

- 19 March – RCN HQ

If you would like to attend one of these, please contact Charlotte Grant at the RCN, on email: Charlotte.Grant@rcn.org.uk

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Forum committee member MYRA LAMONT provides an update.

The first sexual assault unit in Scotland – Glasgow ARCHWAY, based in Sandyford – is anticipated to open in spring 2007.

This is a joint partnership with the Scottish Executive, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, Strathclyde Police and Rape Crisis and Glasgow City Council.

In addition, a Scottish National Sexual Health Advisory Committee, chaired by the Health Minister, Andy Kerr, has been established to advise on policy and to monitor and support the implementation of the national strategy 'Respect and responsibility', as well as taking forward some key aspects around influencing Scottish culture, sex and relationships education and clinical services, which includes the development of a national

IT system. Work on implementing recommendations for this strategy is progressing well.

A west of Scotland regional network has also been established, which includes sexual and reproductive health partners from NHS GG and Clyde, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, and NHS Dumfries and Galloway, to drive forward a common aim to integrate and modernise sexual health services across the west of Scotland.

Strategy reports, minutes of meetings and supporting papers can be downloaded from: www.scotland.gov.uk (search under National Sexual Health Advisory Committee: NSHAC).

A patient's confidentiality – not to be taken lightly

A summary of the policy consultation on confidentiality and disclosure of patient information: HIV and sexually transmitted infection.

The forum has responded on behalf of the RCN to the above document, a critical paper whose outcome will affect the way that managing patient information occurs in all areas of sexual health.

Response summary

- Child protection must be paramount in the appropriate sharing of patient information and, as there must be consistency across government agencies, we would therefore encourage engagement with the Child Health Policy Team and Safeguarding Children and Young People Team.
- There are several perspectives to consider – those of the individuals needs, the needs of their partner(s) and those of the care providers. Breaking a patient's confidentiality should only occur when all other avenues have failed.
- The use of existing clinical practice guidelines and professional guidance documents must inform a nurse's practice in relation to confidentiality.
- A nurse should never encourage a patient to report their sexual partner to the police where the issue of transmission of a sexually acquired infection has occurred.

If you are interested in reading the full response, please contact RCN Sexual Health Advisers Colin Roberts or Kathy French for a copy (also available via DH website, Gateway: 6075).

Co-opted Forum Committee member **EILEEN MUNSON** reports on a successful adventure in radio.

Nursing the airwaves

How do you get sexual health messages across to a young, healthy and fit population? This is a challenge faced daily throughout the UK, but takes on a totally different perspective when the population consists of thousands of service personnel deployed on operations across southern Iraq. In this respect, RCN Sexual Health Forum member S/Sgt Debbie Frost is quite unique, as she is the only GU specialist nurse with the British military out in Iraq. To conduct clinics, she travels around the various outposts, assessing, diagnosing and treating patients on a same-day basis.

Because travel around 'theatre' is both difficult and time-consuming, opportunities to deliver sexual health instruction are limited. Thus, a new initiative was adopted to enhance the message – this involved a team of nurses, representing all three services working in the military hospital in Shiabab, writing and recording health promotion sketches for British Forces Broadcasting Services (BFBS)

radio. The main sketch that Debbie and I wrote was on chlamydia. As both of us are from Cardiff, Wales, it was quite natural to do a sketch with Welsh voices. Our two 'ladies of the night', Myfanwyn and Blodwyn, are at a disco and so the story and events progress! It was great fun producing them all and we achieved the recording on first take.

These messages are now being transmitted across all the British Forces radio stations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Cyprus, Belize, Kosovo, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and Germany on a regular basis.



Co-opted committee member **Lt Eileen Munson**, in Iraq, recording for BFBS Radio.



S/Sgt Debbie Frost, Practice Manager S/Sgt Lindsay and Lt Eileen Munson with Hermione from BFBS, recording in Shiabab.

Eight leading nursing journals now available online

Log on to the members' area of **RCN Online** at www.rcn.org.uk and you can access eight of the world's leading **nursing journals** free online, including *Nursing Standard*, *Nurse Researcher*, *Nursing Management* and *American Journal of Nursing*.

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“If you look after nurses then they will look after nursing and that, fundamentally, is what this work is all about” former RCN President Sylvia Denton OBE FRCN reminded attendees at a second fruitful meeting of the Professional Membership Structures Action Group (PMSAG) on 3 October.



UPDATE: RCN Professional Membership Structure Action Group

The PMSAG was set up following RCN Council's decision in February 06 to change the RCN membership structure in order to deliver the aims of the Professional Development Framework Project. This project aims to get more members involved with the RCN and to enable more equity and better access to RCN services.

The PMSAG includes elected members – representing forums and other membership groups – along with the Council and staff leads. In July, the group clarified the original proposals and terms of reference for the Action Group as follows:

- in future members will join “divisions” as well as branches
- there will be a maximum of eight divisions
- forums will not be moved into divisions and will retain their national identity, working across divisions as and when appropriate
- networks will be developed as appropriate
- the new structures will be implemented from 2008.

The terms of reference for the Action Group were agreed as:

- to determine future organisational arrangements for forums and fields of practice
- to establish the proposed divisional structure
- to develop criteria for the proposed networks
- to develop appropriate governance structures for divisions, forums and fields of practice
- to establish subgroups and work – streams to undertake specific delegated tasks.
- to undertake the work formerly undertaken by the NFCC and the former PDF Steering Group until the new structures are implemented.

Sub groups were established to undertake the next stages of the work:

- A mapping exercise based on that already begun for the Branch Review Project

- Based on this data, models of best practice will be developed
- Divisions: how many there will be and what they will be called
- The technology requirements will be identified
- Definition of what we mean by professional membership services and to set standards and benchmarks
- Governance arrangements for the new structures

In October, the group acknowledged they were part way on a journey that will, ultimately, deliver better services for members and, in turn, help them to deliver better quality care. A vision which will be realised by creating better access to better services focussed on the needs of the nursing profession and nurses themselves.

The group heard feedback from each of its six subgroups and were unanimous in agreeing a number of recommendations which were, subsequently, approved by the PDF Management Board – which oversees the entire PDF project – at its meeting the following day. The Board approved that:

- the term “practice sector” should be used to describe the divisions within the new professional membership structure
- the following practice sectors be set up to represent members’ professional interests on the RCN’s boards:
 - adult (2 seats)
 - children and young people (1 seat)
 - mental health (1 seat)
 - learning disabilities (1 seat)
 - public health (1 seat)
 - midwifery (1 seat)
 - other (name to be decided but representing the interests of research/education/quality/management) (1 seat)

RCN Council agreed to the proposals on the new practice sectors at its November 06 meeting.

For more information and the latest information go to www.rcn.org.uk/pdf



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