

Leaders in London

Email – leadersinlondon@rcn.org.uk



Royal College
of Nursing
London

Issue Two – March 2006

Introduction

Welcome to the second issue of Leaders in London. In the interim, I trust you received the other communications I have sent since the first issue was circulated. Thanks to those who returned comments, largely positive, about our attempts to engage differently with you.

Nursing is facing many challenges for example commissioning a Patient Led NHS, Patient Choice, Resource issues in Hospitals, and new ways of working. In addition there is much work ongoing with the Greater London Assembly supporting issues such as 7/7 review, Transport for London, housing and the exciting development of hosting the Olympic Games with the associated regeneration challenges affecting all London Nurses and residents.

We want to assist you through this period of significant change and would welcome your views about how best to do so. For example, we could work with you helping to articulate your ideas about new ways of working. Another suggestion from the London Board is for a small group of key nursing figures to be established, to gain your views which in turn help to inform the decisions we make and the support we offer. Do feel free to make contact with me as necessary.

bernell.bussue@rcn.org.uk

Commissioning a Patient Led NHS

The RCN has met with four London SHA Chief Nurse groups and the last SHA meeting is scheduled. A recurring theme at these meetings is CPLNHS. Since the Judicial Review, the RCN has been taking work forward about new models. We have also actively been lobbying for a proper HR framework to secure the smoothest process during these potentially challenging times. A guide for Senior Nurse Managers has been produced and circulated, also accessible via the RCN website.

Deficits

The issue of deficits is a serious concern. In the spirit of this partnership RCN Director, RCN London, Bernell Bussue wrote to all chief executives in London calling for an open dialogue about any changes to working conditions or terms. The initial response to this letter was broadly positive. The RCN is committed to working toward solutions formulated by both management and staff representatives.

Professional Development Framework

The first phase of the consultation on the Professional Development Framework (PDF) has closed. Early responses offer support for the changes proposed. This is one of the most important structural changes to support future engagement with our members the RCN has embarked on. Early days, but you will be kept up to date about how things progress.

Improving Working Lives

London is on schedule to have completed the Practice Plus project by 31 March 2006. Currently the six trusts who had been deferred are discussing their action plans, and it is anticipated to have nearly 100% compliance within London. This has been a huge achievement and an example of good partnership working of which the RCN has played a key role.

Pay Review campaign

In January the RCN launched its 'no to pay cut to nurses' campaign. The campaign follows Chancellor Gordon Brown's letter to the NHS Pay Review Body stating that the 2006 pay award for nurses and other public sector workers should be 2%. The RCN feel that inflation, increases in living costs, mortgage payments and other housing costs are not covered by this increase and that a wage deal of 2% is actually a pay cut. Over 16'000 RCN members have sent e-cards to the Chancellor. General Secretary, Dr Malone and a delegation of nurses will present a petition to the Chancellor next week. Find out more and send your card at www.rcn.org.uk/pay2006

Queen's New Years Honours

Congratulations to colleagues receiving honours.

CBE

Sylvia Denton, RCN President and specialist nurse at Barts & the London for services to nursing

Christine Moffatt Professor of Nursing at Thames Valley University for services to health care

Julie Dent, chief executive, South West London Strategic Health Authority for leading the team that coordinated the HS response to London bombing

MBE

Julia Peterkin (MBE), Royal London Hospital

Angela Scarisbrick (MBE), Great Ormond Street Hospital

Both recognised for their contribution on 7 July 2005 London bombing

HSJ Awards

London Region was well represented in both winners and finalists at the HSJ awards towards the end of last year. Acute Healthcare Organisation of the Year was Mayday Healthcare Trust, having achieved 'outstanding results from a systematic, organisation-wide approach to improvement, based on scientific principles...' and is held to be at the forefront of evidence-based changes.

New Faces at the London Region - Operational Managers

Two new posts of operational Manager for London have been created to strengthen the management capacity of RCN London Region and to bring additional support to members, activists and other key stakeholders. The RCN acknowledges there is a need to provide services in a different way to support members.

Nora Flanagan trained at Charing Cross Hospital and completed Intensive Care Nursing at the London Hospital. Following a number of posts in Intensive Care in London, Nora worked as a sister, clinical teacher, nursing officer and Deputy Director of nursing in Charing Cross. Nora became a General Manager in Riverside Health Authority. Nora has held two Director of Nursing Posts one in Hertfordshire and latterly at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich. Nora has worked abroad in India for two years and has undertaken work for the Overseas Administration in Zanzibar and for the WHO in the Eastern Region in the Middle East. Contact: nora.flanagan@rcn.org.uk

Sue Tarr has a clinical background in the field of Accident and Emergency nursing. During her period as a clinically based nurse, she was an RCN Steward and Safety Representative. Sue was the North Thames Representative on the RCN UK Health & Safety (H&S) Committee. Sue was also an active member of the RCN A&E forum of which she was secretary. Sue moved into the RCN as a Regional Officer in 1998 working initially in the North Thames office and moving into London Region at its creation. Through taking an active role in activist training and H&S Sue will be a well known figure to many activists taking in and around London. Contact: sue.tarr@rcn.org.uk

Greater London Assembly Round Up

7th July review

The Greater London Assembly has been undertaking a review into the events of 7 July 2005, when London was subjected to a series of bombings. On 11 January 2006, Director, RCN London, Bernell Bussue, Great Ormond Street Chief Nurse Judith Ellis and Whitechapel A&E lead Alan Dobson, gave evidence to the panel. The session also received evidence from the SHA 'gold command' and local authorities whose jurisdiction covered the attacks.

The London Assembly is asking that any information, testimonies and issues that Londoners would like to contribute be sent to 7thjuly@london.gov.uk. These submissions will inform the work of the committee and be collated as part of the report of the review.

Capital Woman

The RCN will take part in this year's 'Capital Woman' event for the first time. The conference, organised by the Mayors office, will take place on Saturday 4 March 2006 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and Central Hall Westminster. It is the premier woman's event in the capital and will be attended by over two thousand Londoners. The RCN will have a presence in the exhibition hall and will provide experts to panel discussions on older people's care and school nursing. For details, including how to register free for attendance, visit <http://www.london.gov.uk/capitalwoman/>

Congress

The RCN's premier event of the year takes place in Bournemouth from 23 – 27 April 2006. The theme is "Nursing the World" Details can be obtained via the RCN website. <http://www.rcn.org.uk/news/congress/2006/>

Contacting Us

We are keen to receive your comments or hear whether there are other people you think should be added to our e-circulation list.

Email – leadersinlondon@rcn.org.uk

Director, RCN London

Bernell Bussue

London Board Member

Gerry Bolger

Public Affairs Officer

Laurence Meehan

RCN London Region

13 Cavendish Square

LONDON

W1G 0PQ

Telephone: 020 7927 7220

Fax: 020 7927 7277