

Leaders in London

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Welcome

The healthcare landscape in London continues to change. The appointment of Dr George Greener and David Nicholson as the new Chair Designate and Chief Executive Designate of the new pan-London SHA is a positive move. I look forward to working with them both and will

campaign to see the role of nurse leadership at the heart of the formation of the new SHA. Their leadership in a time of financial uncertainty will be essential.

This issue of 'Leaders in London'



covers the RCN's high profile campaign against cuts resulting from deficits in the NHS, 'Keep nurses working, keep patients safe', looks at RCN London's engagement with the Greater London Assembly's Health and Public Services Committee, and covers the important elections to the RCN London Board.

Bernell Bussue

Director RCN London

STOP PRESS!

The RCN's General Secretary Dr Beverly Malone has announced that she will leave the RCN in early 2007.

Beverly Malone will be taking up the position of Chief Executive of the National League for Nursing (NLN), based in New York. Founded in 1893, the NLN champions quality nursing education in the United States.

"My time at the RCN has been one of the most rewarding and inspiring periods in my professional life", she said.

Bernell Bussue said, "I am personally sad that Bev will be leaving the RCN, but very happy for her, and wish her well in the future".

THE LONDON BOARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Since its inception four years ago, the London Board has been at the forefront of governance in RCN London. The board developed priorities that shaped how the London Region pursued its policy of influencing government at local and national level.

Board members have shaped other initiatives, such as this Leaders in London project, raising the profile of the organisation among other health stakeholders in London. And this work is far from finished! Other areas for influence are opening up all the time—with the Mayor's office at the GLA, with the Association of London Boroughs, with more and more London MPs.

As a Board member, there is a prime opportunity to get involved with this work.

The London Board is an

elected body of 22 RCN members living and/or working in the capital.

The term of office runs for four years. The commitment is to four meetings per year and the Board has committed to a Development programme.

The Board has vacant seats in the following areas:

South West London Division (2 vacancies): covering Boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton & Sutton, Richmond, Wandsworth

South East London Division (1 vacancy): covering Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark

West London Division (1 vacancy): covering Boroughs of Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow & Spelthorne, NW London M/H, Parkside, Riverside.

North Central London Division (1 Vacancy):

covering Boroughs of Barnet, Bloomsbury, Enfield, Hampstead, Haringey, Islington.

North East London Division (1 Vacancy): covering Boroughs of Barking/Havering/Brentwood, East London, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest.

Regional Seats (3 Vacancies): covering the whole of London

If your mailing address with the RCN falls within any of the above, then you are eligible to stand for election to the corresponding seat.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 14 July 2006. For nomination papers and information pack, please contact the London Board and Committee Administrator Pamela Nelson on 0207 927 7231.

Leaders in London now has its own designated email address. Please contact the editorial team on leadersinlondon@rcn.org.uk with your comments, news and views, as well as any suggestions you may have for future issues.

RCN London

Campaigning on Deficits

The RCN's campaign **Keep nurses working, keep patients safe** has been the more prominent part of the broad work the organisation has been doing to deal with the issues arising from the problems of deficits in the NHS.

On 11 May the RCN organised a national lobby of parliament with a rally in Westminster Methodist hall. Over 800



RCN members, joined by another 200 colleagues from UNISON and AMICUS, descended on Westminster, meeting with well over 200 MPs from across the country and political divide.

London's MPs were covered by a large number of members

The meetings with MPs proved to be useful to both sides; MPs welcomed the chance to meet with members, who were able to enter into serious conversation that allowed them to break down some of the myths around deficits and give some real local evidence. Members also

saw the day as positive way of engaging the issue politically and to draw together some of the problems they face across the country. There had been some confusion amongst some MPs over figures released by the RCN about the number of posts cut by the deficits, which had been seen in some quarters as redundancies. Through the lobby meetings it was made clear to MPs that these figures covered cuts in posts,



which are just as damaging to services and the workforce as redundancies.

The work on the issues on deficits continues. A petition set up to call on the government to halt its short term approach to the issue and acknowledge that deficits are not simply the result of problems at

the local level but that central government policies and reforms have also played their part continues to gather signatures. RCN London region office have been running local workshops for members in trusts faced with redundancies and large cuts to posts on legal implications and consultations. These work shops will continue across the region and we welcome input from non-RCN members to them. The RCN has also increased its legal training for officers and stewards on deficits and the industrial issue outcomes.

This month, the RCN submitted written evidence to the Health Select Committee. You can see this evidence at <http://www.rcn.org.uk/news/campaigns/deficits/>

"Today, we have an opportunity to make our case and offer our solutions. Today we have the chance to say with a voice that is dignified, as well as determined, and professional, as well as passionate, keep nurses working and keep patients safe."

Beverly Malone, 11 May 2006

Inside City Hall

RCN London continues to work closely with the Greater London Assembly. In May the GLA Health and Public Services Committee published its paper, 'Counting the Cots' (<http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/health/counting-cots.pdf>) following their investigation into Neonatal care services in

London. The investigation involved some very close working between the Committee, RCN London, PND and the charity Bliss. RCN Member Clare Alexander, who works at St Thomas' Hospital Neonatal Unit gave evidence at the hearings at City Hall and the RCN's Neonatal Forum provided written evidence. Clare was spoke about some of the difficulties facing the neonatal sector, in particular the issue of recruitment and retention in the face of the capitals high cost of living.

Looking forward, the GLA Health and Public Services Committee has published its work programme for 2006/07 http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/health_ps/2006/healthpsmay16/item06.rtf

The program includes investigations into Health and the Olympics, Community Mental Health Services in London, Access to NHS Dentistry Services and Safety of Public Sector Workers.

The RCN is already in



discussions with the committee on how we can assist with these investigations in order to get the voice of nursing properly represented.

Laurence Meehan
Public Affairs Officer

Briefings from the Policy Unit

The RCN's Policy Unit is producing new briefings for members all the time. Many are available for download to the general public through our website at http://www.rcn.org.uk/aboutus/policy/unit_briefings.s.php.

Current briefings on the site include;

- **Financial Deficits in the NHS: RCN Policy Position and Key Facts**
- **Nurse Led Social**

Enterprise

- **Nursing Models in Patient-led Primary Care Service**

The Health Select Committee recently produced its report **Changes to Primary Care Trusts**. This was followed by a government response, published in March 2006.

Following these, the RCN Policy Unit produced a briefing note on the report from the

Health Select Committee, "Changes to PCTs". This report is not available on the website, but if you would like to receive a copy, please email us at leadersinlondon@rcn.org.uk and we will happily send you a copy.

Briefings detailing the RCN position on government initiatives and policies are available on the RCN website at http://www.rcn.org.uk/aboutus/policy/unit_briefings.php



The Professional Development Framework

The PDF is one of several transformational work streams that the RCN has begun, to demonstrate how it is going to deliver services to and engage with members of the RCN. A key catalyst to this work has been the fact that while the RCN has over 390,000 members, only approx 20% are actively engaged with the organisation.

RCN Council held a

consultation on one key area, the Professional Membership Structure, and out of this has come a need to reform how the 70 plus professional forums work.

This work is a medium term project which will shape over the next 18 to 24 months, but will review how forums work with members, both directly and across the

organisation in relation to research and policy, both internally and nationally, as well as how they link with the employment relations arm of the RCN.

A steering group has been pulled together, consisting of council members, forums and regional reps, and activists to review and develop this important piece of work.



More information, including a power point presentation explaining in detail the planned changes, can be found here:

<http://www.rcn.org.uk/members/getinvolved/consultations/pdf/index.php>

View from The Board

The London Regional Board met in early June and discussed a number of issues.

These included:

A post-Congress report, and the impact London had on the general debates and involvement in Bournemouth.

There was a discussion on the 'RCN 400' campaign,

which aims to bring RCN membership to 400,000, proportionately reflecting just under 50,000 members for London.

The Board received a report showing the we are just under this figure, which fluctuates on an almost daily basis, and we endeavour to exceed this figure.

There were updates on key issues, namely, the impact of CPLNHS, financial and reconfiguration issues, as well as the progress on AfC.

Gerry Bolger

RCN London Board Member, Board Lead for 'Leaders in London' and National Project Director,



