

## South West Region Annual Review



### **Alan Mawbey, South West Regional Board Chair**

I am delighted to introduce members to this new format of the South West Annual Review 2009. My fellow Council member, Jane Bovey, and our South West board colleagues have throughout this year, continued work shaping RCN South West regional policy and influencing; both professionally and politically. We continue to challenge, question and work hard to develop and support member services throughout the region.

The launch of this review sees a return to Harrogate for Congress 2009. Jane, Kate and I, along with other board members and staff, will be on hand during the event should you have any queries about our work. We hope that those attending from the region find the event informative, inspirational, but most of all, enjoyable.

*Alan*

### **Kate Tompkins, RCN South West Regional Director**

Welcome to this, our annual review for 2008/09. The aim is to provide South West members with a brief local focus for the RCN and information about what we do and who we are.

The South West is geographically one of the largest of the RCN English Regions, sharing borders with the South West Strategic Health Authority. It includes the counties of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Avon, Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall and the Scilly Isles with more than 34,000 RCN members.

Despite the geographical beauty of our region which has some areas of affluence, there remain considerable disparities and pockets of deprivation.

Healthcare organisations continue to go through changes in structure and service provision. With Foundation Trust applications, restructuring and skill mix, commissioning changes, 'arms length' separation between the purchaser and provider arms of the PCT's and Transforming Community Services and this affecting many of our members.

Finally I am pleased to report that the Region has worked within its agreed budget throughout the year and has met the cost improvement plan approved by RCN Council and the South West Regional Board. This has been achieved through the support and leadership of Board members and a range of efficiency savings achieved by the staff in order to make the best possible use of member's money.

*Kate*



# 2008/09 at a glance

## April 08:

### RCN Congress returns to the South West

April saw the return of Congress to Bournemouth where the work of South West members was evident with a huge portion of the Agenda stemming from items put forward from branches or groups from the region. Many of our members took to the mic and spoke with passion about a range of topics. BJ Waltho, East Dorset Branch Chair questioned the Health Secretary about what he would give nurses to celebrate the NHS 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, he replied that he would personally bake a cake. We were especially grateful to members local to Bournemouth who gave their time and energy to volunteer to act as ambassadors, undertaking a range of important roles throughout congress week.

### Occupational Health study day

The South West occupational health group held an extremely successful study day on Managing depression in the workplace with Martin Davis speaking on Mental Health issues.

### Cheltenham Masterclass

An RCN masterclass took place in Cheltenham as part of the work of the Gloucestershire branch to support NHS trusts develop nurse leadership

## May 08:

### May day celebrations

Nurses celebrated International Nurses Day in various imaginative ways across the region.

### Office manager retires

Staff in the regional office celebrated the work of Carol Ewings who retired from her role as Office Manager. Carol returned later in the year to the part time position of PA to the Regional Director and the Head of Operations and Service Development.

### Devon Learning Opportunities

Torbay branch learning representatives held a number of events in 2008 including in May, *Clostridium difficile—is it anybody's fault?*

### Greater Bristol Members update

Greater Bristol branch welcomed guest speaker Paul Hopkins, Specialist community nurse to talk to members about the mental capacity act.

## June 08:

### Safety Representative of the Year

Safety Representative from Devon, Vanessa Moir was named RCN Safety Representative of the Year. Vanessa was presented with her certificate and cheque by RCN President, Maura Buchanan at the very successful South West representatives learning event which took place in Taunton. **Photo: Maura Buchanan (left) pictured with Vanessa Moir, Safety Representative of the Year.**



## July 08:

### Dr Peter Carter visits Devon

The South West learning representatives held their conference, Belts and Braces 3, in Exeter. Dr Peter Carter, RCN Chief Executive & General Secretary gave the key note speech. Many branches across the region held learning events, topics included, the new RCN constitution, the Darzi work, Nutrition and palliative care.

### Health Secretary bakes a cake

Health Secretary, Mr Alan Johnson, presented East Dorset Chair, BJ Waltho, with the cake he had promised when questioned about the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the NHS during RCN Congress in April. **Photo: Alan Johnson and BJ Waltho**



## August 08: Staff issues

Regional staff celebrated the successful implementation of a permanent staffing structure. This followed an extended period of temporary measures. The team is now well bedded in, details of who's who can be found on the regional web pages.

### Poole study day

RCN representatives at Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust held their event Developing roles to improve the patient experience. The event was attended by 60 healthcare workers from a wide area.

## September 08:

### Campaign Success

Following a joint campaign with UNITE and Unison raising concerns about sterile services and proposals for 'super-centres', the RCN South West region were delighted to learn that four of the six trusts withdrew from the collaboration leaving the proposal unfeasible.



## October 08:

### Former RCN President Visits Dorset

Past RCN President, Sylvia Denton, visited the region, giving an inspiring key note speech at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, an event organised by East Dorset Branch.

### Transforming the NHS

Lord Darzi of Denham and David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive visited the Region. They were key note speakers at the "High Quality for All" conference organised by the SHA. The conference set out seventy four ambitions for the transformation of the NHS in the South West, which were developed as part of the national review of the NHS led by Lord Darzi. RCN South West Regional Director, Kate Tompkins joined RCN members BJ Waltho, Yvette Wells, Paul Watts and Susan Oliver who had been involved in developing these proposals. Some of the key messages from the event were the emphasis placed on clinical engagement, unlocking talent, supporting innovative practice and leadership development.

## November 08:

### Bridgwater members recognised

RCN members and nurse practitioners from the Minor Injury Unit at Bridgwater Community Hospital were awarded the Community Hospitals Association 'Innovation and Best Practice Award' for their innovative use of cardiac telemedicine, the service has also received national commendations and awards from the Health Business Association and Somerset PCT.

### NHS Dignity

RCN member Jayne Biddiscombe who works at Weston Hospital was named the 3000<sup>th</sup> volunteer to become a Department of Health Dignity Champion. **PHOTO: Jayne Biddiscombe**



## December 08:

### Students

More than 60 students travelled from across the region to Plymouth for the conference 'Dare to care – hope to cope'. A lively group discussed a range of issues at the event chaired by Steven Blake-way, South West RCN ANS member. We also recruited several Student Information Officers who will signpost RCN student members to services across the RCN.



## January 09:

### RCN Chief Executive praises members at Cornwall Conference



The Cornwall Branch held a prestigious conference, all Together Now 2, Dr Peter Cater who gave a key note speech said “This was an inspiring example of what a branch, if all members pull together, can achieve”. The event was hugely successful and widely reported on in the media. **Photo: Pictured with Dr. Carter are from left to right, Jon Gladstone, Mary Mallett, Margaret North, Helen Lewis, Lesley Pallett and Susan Pickett who make up the RCN Cornwall**

**Branch conference planning committee.**

## February 09:

### RCN Office Relocation

Staff relocated to our purpose built offices on the outskirts of Exeter. The new open plan office is ideally situated to allow easy access to members with direct public transport links and direct access to the M5.

### Developing Political Leaders in the Region

Lesley Pallet, Cornwall Branch representative and Board member successfully completed the RCN’s political leadership programme, her identified issue was



preceptorship for newly qualified nurses. Lesley has put theory into practice with a productive meeting with Ben Bradshaw, Minister for Health and the South West and a recent presentation to Baroness Cumberlege.

**Photo: Lesley Pallet**

## March 09:

### Joint RCN and OU conference for Health Care Assistants

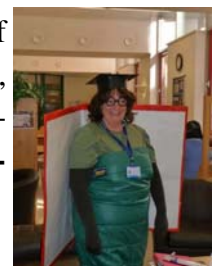


The Royal College of Nursing and the Open University held the first joint conference for healthcare assistants. One hundred delegates from all over the region were welcomed by Kate Tompkins, Regional Director, RCN South West and Linda Brightman, Regional Director, Open University. Paul Vaughan, RCN Adviser for Healthcare Assistants gave the keynote speech delivering a strong message about the value of the health care assistant roles in nursing.

Jonathan Green, RCN Senior Legal Officer then talked about accountability and regulation. The delegates were introduced to the learning world of the Open University hearing from Lyn Cornish, healthcare assistant at St Margaret’s hospice who is nearing the end of her foundation degree taken through the Open University. Five RCN member delegates won a free Openings course with the Open University. **Photo: Jonathan Green, RCN Senior Legal Officer.**

### Salisbury Bookswap

Developed in partnership between Salisbury NHS Foundation trust education team and staff side organisations (including the RCN), facilities department and Salisbury public library, bookswap aims to promote reading throughout the trust and support the trusts widening participation agenda. **Photo: Lesley Bellringer, RCN Learning representative and bookworm**



## South West Regional Board

<b>Council Member and Chair</b> Alan Mawbey	<b>Vice Chair</b> Frances Jones	<b>Council Member</b> Jane Bovey
<b>UK Stewards</b> Kathryn Lawrie	<b>UK Safety Reps</b> Mike Limbrick	<b>Learning Reps</b> Helen Ballinger
		<b>Association of Nursing Students</b> Claire Barber

### BRANCHES

<b>Bath</b> Lors Allford	<b>Cornwall</b> Susan Pickett	<b>East Dorset</b> Mollie Harwood
<b>Exeter</b> Sharon McGinn	<b>Gloucestershire</b> Vacant	<b>Greater Bristol</b> Darren Eaves
<b>North Devon</b> Vacant	<b>Plymouth</b> Christine Greenshield	<b>Salisbury</b> Laura Matless
<b>Swindon</b> Vacant	<b>Torbay</b> Vacant	<b>West Dorset</b> Vacant
<b>Somerset</b> Vacant		<b>Weston</b> Patricia Hodge

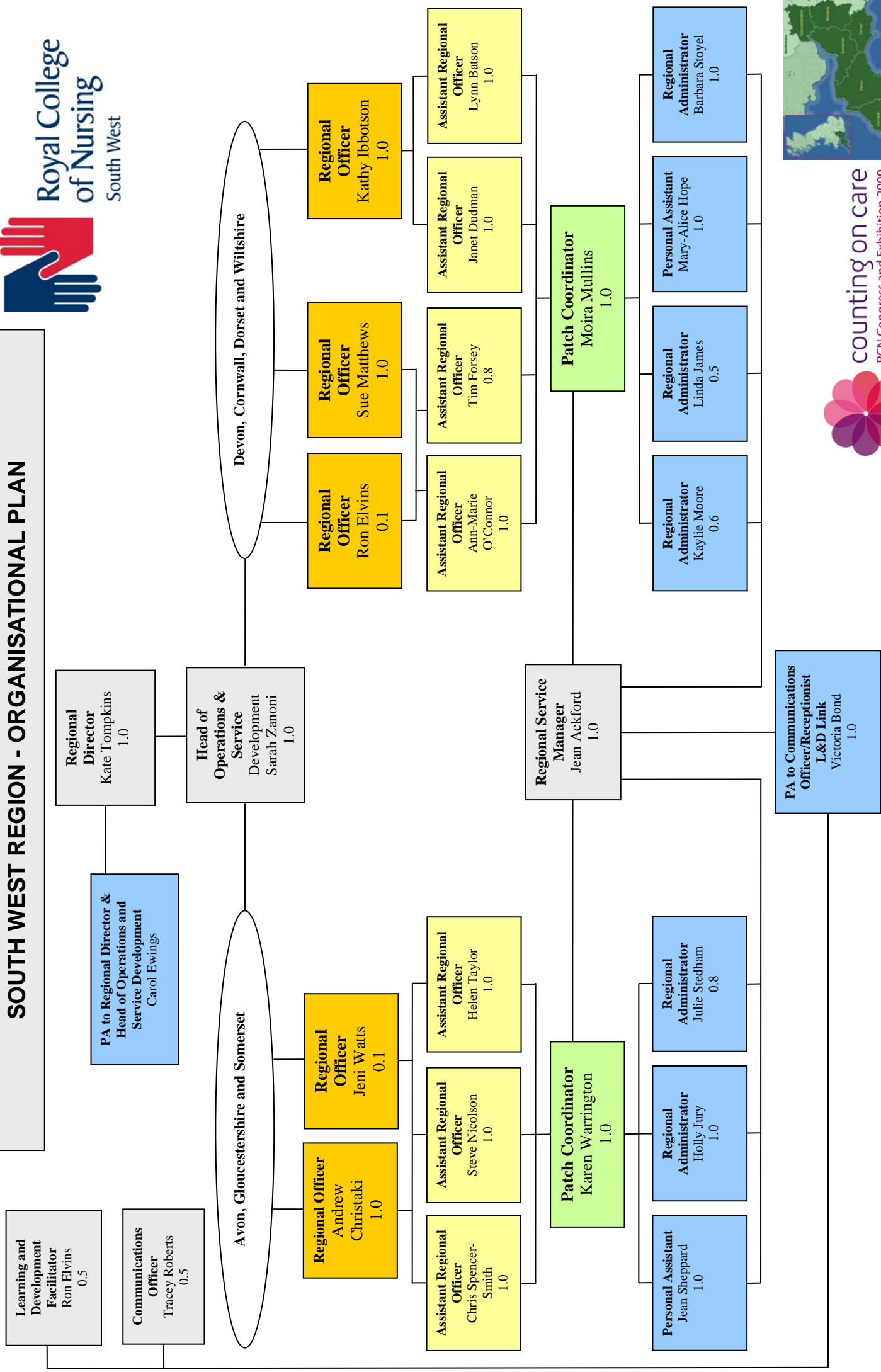
### FIELDS OF PRACTICE

<b>Children, Young People &amp; Midwifery</b> Yvette Wells	<b>Mental Health &amp; Learning Disabilities</b> Paul Watts
<b>Older People Potential New Networks</b> Vacant	<b>Nursing Therapeutics Clinical and Supportive Care</b> Premi Bonomally
<b>Primary and Public Health</b> Amanda Yates	<b>Acute Intervention</b> Edna Piper
<b>Education Research, Informatics and Quality Ethics</b> Frances Jones	<b>Management and Leadership Work and Environment</b> Angela Thompson
<b>Lesley Pallet</b> Co-opted member	





# SOUTH WEST REGION - ORGANISATIONAL PLAN



## Key Contacts

### South West Regional Branches

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Bath	Debra Nicholson	Steve Dunne-Howells
Cornwall	Margaret North	Susan Pickett
East Dorset	Beverly Waltho	Kathy Moore
Exeter	Sharon McGinn	Terri Held
Gloucester	Louise Alexander	Tim Coupland
Greater Bristol	Lesley Chivers	Darren Eaves
North Devon	Diane Davey	Maureen Thomas
Plymouth	Christine Greenshield	Trisha Bolt
Salisbury & South Wiltshire	Lindsey Bellringer	Jane Bovey
Somerset	Vanda Squire	Robert Sanderson
Swindon & North Wiltshire	Margaret Williams	Yvonne Kennett
Torbay	Maria Georghiou	Paulette Baker
West Dorset	Ian Sheppard	Patricia Hodge
Weston	Elizabeth Lee	

All branch activists can be contacted through the regional office.

### Contact Us

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# The south west region in pictures



Dorset Coast



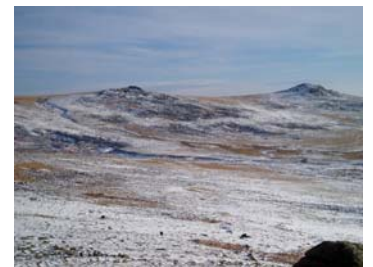
The Cotswolds



Bristol



Cornwall



Dartmoor



Plymouth



Gloucester Cathedral



The River Tamar



Glastonbury Festival



Salisbury



Stonehenge



Devon/Cornwall Border at Morwellham