

SuPer Finnish nurses visit Cambridge

MIKE KAVANAGH, RCN Officer, recently addressed a group of Finnish nurses who are on an educational visit to the UK. The group, led by Leena Kaasinen-Parkatti (front right of the photo) and Arja Niittynen (second row, first from the right) from the Finnish Union of Practical Nurses (SuPer) have brought groups to Cambridge for several years and had invited Mike to talk on the RCN. As mental health lead, Mike also spoke on current issues in mental health in the UK.



The group also visited local health care units, and had presentations from a variety of speakers during their stay. Mike hopes that the contact he has built with SuPer will continue and may lead to return visits by British nurses to Finland.

Welcome to our new Chief Nurse

RCN EASTERN Director Karen Webb has welcomed Susan Osborne CBE to her new post as Chief Nurse for the NHS East of England.

Until recently, Susan (pictured below) was the Director of Nursing Services for St Mary's Hospital NHS Trust in London, where she led the creation of the new Imperial College Healthcare Trust, the first academic health sciences centre in the UK.



Susan's new remit will include nursing/midwifery, allied health professionals and health care scientists leadership, and supporting NHS organisations to improve the patient experience. She will be the strategic health authority's policy lead for long-term conditions, maternity and neonatal services, continuing care and patient satisfaction.

Karen will meet Susan regularly to discuss issues that affect RCN members and nursing. She told *RCN Bulletin*: 'I am very pleased that Susan has joined the SHA executive team. She brings a wealth of experience in nurse leadership and management and is highly committed to supporting the development of the East of England as the provider of the best health care in England.'

'What is more, when we [the RCN] pushed to have a nurse on every NHS Board, Susan is the kind of leader we envisaged, as she demonstrates that she knows and appreciates what good nursing care services are.'

News in brief:

Successful reps' conference

Almost 50 RCN stewards, safety and learning representatives attended a well evaluated conference recently in Woodgreen. The morning sessions comprised presentations on professional regulation, membership recruitment and local health strategy. Delegates were able to select from workshops on employment law, the benefit system and professional education after lunch. The day concluded with an outline of the RCN programme of education for accredited reps and an overview of RCN strategic activity locally. RCN Officer John Wilkinson thanked all speakers, RCN Council members Marcia Turnham and Anne Wells for facilitating the event, Carole Vincent for managing the administration and Linsey Byrne for taking the photographs.

Eastern Board elections

Elections to the RCN Eastern Board take place over the next three months. If you would like to take a more active role in the RCN, do call Regional Director Karen Webb on 07836 355128 to learn more about what being a Board member means. Nomination packs and details of the seats available are available from Pat Stroud on 020 7647 3528 or email her at pat.stroud@rcn.org.uk

Lucky winner

Congratulations to Andrew Blakesley, learning disability nursing student in the region, who was the lucky winner of the prize draw offered to RCN members at Congress in Bournemouth recently by Liverpool Victoria.

Events

17 JULY

RCN Eastern Board

To be held at Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm, London Road, Godmanchester, Cambs PE29 2NH. Arrival time 09:30 for coffee, with the meeting lasting from 10:00 to 16:00.

Towards the best, together

An afternoon workshop aimed at all RCN members in the East of England. Have your say and tell the RCN what you think of the NHS East of England 10-year clinical vision, and be part of our response to the strategic health authority consultation. Sue Greenslade, Deputy Chief Nurse from the SHA, is our keynote speaker at Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester, from 14.00-16.30. Call 0870 190 4090 for further information.

24 JULY

RCN Norfolk branch AGM

If you would like to become more involved in the work of the RCN and its influencing activities, then get in touch with your local RCN activist or RCN Regional Officer Adrian Ing at the regional office. Anyone seeking nomination for a Branch Executive position or wanting further information, should call Karen Edwards on 01284 71771 or email karen.edwards@rcn.org.uk by Monday 21 July.

29 JULY

RCN workplace meeting

At Hemel Hempstead General Hospital, Room 3, Cheere House, from 13:30-14:30. This meeting is open to all RCN members.

30 JULY

RCN workplace meeting

At Watford General Hospital, Terrace Meeting Room, from 12:00-13:00. This meeting is open to all members.

23 SEPTEMBER

RCN Suffolk branch

Branch meeting at Mid Suffolk District Council Offices, Needham Market. Please contact Denise Shortt, Branch Secretary, through the regional office (details below).

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