

Professional Nursing Committee Report to Members – December 2023

1. This report reflects work done by the Professional Nursing Committee since the last report to Council and an update from our most recent meeting on 13 December 2023.
2. In December we sadly said goodbye to Siobhan Donald (Northern Ireland), Sue Haines (East Midlands), Sally Young (North West), Suzanne Davies (student member) and Paul Trevatt (London). All five completed their terms on 31 December.
3. I am very grateful for the significant contribution each and every one of them made to the work of the Committee. They were all valuable members of the PNC whose knowledge and expertise will be much missed.
4. Following the earlier election of Aquiline Chivinge (East Midlands) and re-election of both Alison Paterson (Eastern) and Tim Grace (Northern), we have now also been joined by Alisha Brown (student member formerly on the Trade Union Committee), Donna Gallagher (Northern Ireland), Oladunni Akinbulumo (North West) and Sonia Henry (London). I look forward to meeting them all in person at our next meeting on 1 February.
5. I am delighted to also report that I have been re-elected as Chair of the Committee and Colin Baker (South West) has been elected as our new Vice Chair.
6. The report of our 13 December meeting follows. We only met for a short period that day as Committee members were invited to attend the international safe staffing summit in the morning.

Staffing for Safe and Effective Care (SSEC)

7. I was delighted to have had the opportunity to Chair the safe staffing summit in the morning, and so to be present for both days of excellent presentations and lively discussions. Our Vice Chair, Siobhan Donald, was also present throughout and other members of PNC joined the summit on day two.

8. Following the summit, we were joined by Professor Alison Leary and Professor Jane Ball for the main item on our agenda which was to reflect on discussion and the outcomes of the event.
9. While discussion at the summit was, at times, uncomfortable or challenging, we felt that the event was a success overall and ended positively. The evidence presented by the speakers significantly shifted thinking on the need for mandated patient:nurse ratios and discussion during the summit gave the RCN some much-needed insight into the fears that exist around introducing ratios, particularly among senior nurses. We now know some of the questions and concerns that we need to address.
10. We agreed that there was a real need for momentum in building on the outcomes of the summit and look forward to further discussion at our February meeting on next steps.

Update on the Work of the RCN Fellows

11. We were joined by Convenor of RCN Fellows, Professor Danny Kelly, who updated us on the work of the Fellows and their involvement with the College during 2023.
12. We were pleased to hear of the Co-ordinating Committee's focus on improving communication with and the engagement of active Fellows and recognised the work that the Committee has undertaken to improve the [Fellows webpage](#) - this now includes biographies for all Fellows and monthly blogs.
13. Additionally, Danny briefed us on discussion at the full Fellows meeting held in November and outlined plans for Congress 2024. He also spoke about the 'In Person with Nursing Pioneers' event series and we heard that the next one planned for February is likely to have a focus on staffing for safe and effective care following discussion at the international summit.

Committee Work Programme 2023

14. Ahead of discussion on our new work programme for 2024 at our next meeting in February, in December we reviewed progress against our key workstreams for 2023 including development of the RCN Institute of Excellence. Some of our 2023 workstreams will carry over into our new work programme while I am sure there will be new ones to be added.
15. We also received an update on the review of forums governance processes which is progressing through the Governance Support Committee.

16. Since our meeting in December, PNC have received the forums Annual Report. This report demonstrates the amazing work done by our professional forums over the year. We have previously highlighted to Council concerns with regards to implementation of the recommendations of the Forums and Networks Review. Whilst this is still work in progress, we were pleased to note that the report clearly demonstrates the significant contribution made by the forums to the professional work of the College.
17. In relation to the PNC risk register, we agreed the closure of the two risks below:
 - Adoption of nursing workforce standards
 - Definition of nursing and principles

Protect the Title Nurse

18. We received an update on the campaign to protect the title 'nurse' from Committee lead, Paul Trevatt.
19. We noted that while the government's reform of the legislative framework for regulated health and care professionals across the UK is ongoing, progress has been slow. It is expected that the NMC will be the next professional regulator to be looked at in relation to regulatory reform and that there will be a public consultation in due course on proposed changes to the way the NMC operates. This will be the opportunity for us to highlight our campaign, which we know is viewed positively by the NMC.

Governance and Culture Reviews: Joint Partnership Board

20. Paul Trevatt also fed back to us from the Governance and Culture Reviews Joint Partnership Board following its November meeting.
21. While Paul's term on the Committee has now come to an end, he will remain involved in the campaign to protect the title nurse as an active member of the RCN and has agreed to attend the Joint Partnership Board on behalf of PNC in January, reporting back to our next meeting. In February we will identify a new member to represent the Committee.

Next Meeting

22. The next formal PNC meeting takes place on 1 February 2024. We also meet jointly with the Trade Union Committee the day before for an induction/ development session.

Committee Membership

Rachel Hollis (Yorkshire and the Humber – CHAIR)
Siobhan Donald (Northern Ireland – VICE CHAIR)
Mary Codling (South East)
Martha Gill (Scotland)
Tracie Culpitt (Nursing Support Worker)
Tim Grace (Northern)
Ray McMorrow (West Midlands)
Sue Haines (East Midlands)
Paul Trevatt (London)
Carolyn Middleton (Wales)
Suzanne Davies (Student)
Alison Paterson (Eastern)
Sally Young (North West)
Colin Baker (South West)

Apologies for the December meeting were received from Suzanne Davies.

Staff Attendance

Professor Nicola Ranger (Chief Nurse)
Lynn Woolsey (Deputy Chief Nurse)
Philip Ball (Director of Policy, Communications and Marketing)
Antonia Borneo (Associate Director of Policy and Public Affairs)
Wendy Preston (Head of Nursing Practice)
John Bryant (Head of Member Communications)
Maxine Nunn (Performance, Risk and Assurance Manager)
Stephanie Goodwin (Head of Organising)
Kimberley Scott (Associate Director of Communications)
Caroline Clinker (Governance Adviser)

Rachel Hollis

Chair, Professional Nursing Committee

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