

Activism in retirement: What the future holds

RCN Retired Members' Conference 2025

RCN Headquarters, Cavendish Square, London | 15 September 2025 | Programme

Purpose:

To celebrate the activism of retired members across the RCN, and provide a space for networking, collaboration, and planning activities.

Intended outcomes:

At the end of the event delegates will:

1. Build leadership capacity within the retired members community and foster ownership over its activities.
2. Contribute to the RCN retired members community in becoming a proactive organising group that contributes to RCN goals through mentoring, campaigning and partnership.
3. Improve visibility, cohesion, and engagement among retired and active members.

DAY ONE

10.00

Registration and refreshments

Collect your badge and visit the exhibition:

- Member Support Services
- The Institute
- History of Nursing Forum
- NHS Fellowship
- Quilters
- Activism Academy

11.00

Welcome, Introduction and tribute to Prof. Dame June Clark

Fiona Milner, Conference Chair, *Midlands Regional Board Member, NPC Representative, and RCN Retired Member*

And

Joanne Galbraith-Marten, *Executive Director of Legal and Member Relations*

11.30	<p>Session 1 - Structures in the RCN - <i>Staying engaged post-retirement (workshop)</i></p> <p>Rachel Hollis FRCN, <i>Chair, Professional Nursing Committee</i></p> <p>This will be an interactive session focusing on building and sharing understanding of how to stay involved in the RCN's structures post-retirement. Notes taken from this session will build a new resource for newly retired members which will help sign post them towards routes to stay active in the organisation</p>
12.45	<p>Lunch and networking</p> <p>Visit the exhibition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Support Services • The Institute • History of Nursing Forum • NHS Fellowship • Quilters • Activism Academy
13.30	<p>Session 2 - Activism through the RCN - <i>Leadership, mentorship, and organising (interactive/panel discussion)</i></p> <p>Harry Eccles, <i>Head of Activist Engagement</i>, in discussion with:</p> <p>Natalie Brooks, <i>Eastern, Vice Chair of Council</i></p> <p>Joanne Galbraith-Marten, <i>Executive Director of Legal and Member Relations</i></p> <p>Zeba Arif, <i>Retired RCN Member and Vice Chair of The RCN Mental Health Forum</i></p> <p>A panel discussion with Q&A, which will give details of the RCN's new activism strategy and allow leaders from across the RCN to share their thoughts and views on the future of retired activism. Questions and answers will follow short presentations from each speaker.</p> <p>Questions to be submitted pre-event to activism@rcn.org.uk</p>

<p>14.30</p>	<p>Session 3 - Activism beyond the RCN – <i>External Influence and Representation</i></p> <p>Jan Shortt, <i>General Secretary of The National Pensioners Convention</i></p> <p>This will be an interactive session. We will hear from the General Secretary of the National Pensioners Convention, to which the RCN is affiliated, about movements, campaigns and activism happening across the UK. After this, attendees will have the chance to discuss their priorities for retired activism.</p>
<p>15.15</p>	<p>Summary and closing remarks</p> <p>Fiona Milner, <i>Conference Chair Midlands, Regional Board Member, NPC Representative, and RCN Retired Member</i></p>
<p>15.30</p>	<p>Conference Close</p>