

Forum Name & Introduction:

- Advanced Nurse Practitioners Forum Steering Committee

This forum steering committee supports a professional level of practice rather than a specific clinical speciality, and therefore we support all nurses practising at an advanced or consultant level, regardless of their base registration or clinical area.

The steering committee had 6 appointed formal members and was supported by a reserve forum member. In 2025 the committee successfully recruited to fill four vacant positions, and a further reserve position. In total by January 2026, we will have seven committee members and one reserve member. We have representation from England, Wales and Northern Ireland within our committee. We have also been careful to recruit from a wide variety of clinical specialities and backgrounds, including primary and secondary and the independent sector. The current members have experience in global research, post graduate level education, public health policies, mental health and adult and children acute and long-term care.

Membership of the forum 2025

- RCN Membership: 12,884 members
- 1st Choice: 7571 members
- Facebook: 2983 members

We currently have 12,884 members in the forum for 2025, approx. 6.7% increase up from 12,071 in 2024. This year the communication department helped us to increase our profile on the RCN website page with Facebook details and also through the promotion of the group in congress and when we speak at events along with our ANP conference which is widely published on LinkedIn and Facebook. We are the first-choice forum for 7,571 members, up from 6,965 members in 2024.

We have 2,983 members in our Facebook group in 2025, approx. a 10 % increase, up from 2,700 members in 2024.

We currently have no vacancies in our steering committee following recent successful recruitment, and the new members will start in January 2026.

We received 21 applications for four vacancies this year.

Reflections on 2025 (Outputs and outcomes)

Jen Charlewood and Sharlene Hogan have been co-chairs of the ANP Forum in 2025 working together to support events, organise work and attend meetings. Jen's 8-year term as a committee member and co-chair comes to an end in December 2025. Sharlene's co-chair appointment also comes to end in December 2025; she has applied and has been successfully appointed as the chair for the forum, while Adele Parson has been appointed as the vice chair. They both have a 2-year term, which ends in December 2027.

Throughout this year the team has been working on promoting the UK professional framework work on levels of nursing, to help support nurses on their career pathway

across the four nations. We started off by planning our outputs for this year at our strategy day.

Strategy Day

On the 31st of January 2025 we held our Strategy Day meeting at RCN Headquarters.

- **Credentialing:**
 - We discussed the decommissioning of the RCN credentialling programme and the import of this in relation to the NMC's plans to regulate advanced practice. The steering committee were in agreement, that the RCN credentialling programme was no longer fit for purpose given the NMC decision to regulate advanced nursing practice.
- **Removal of government funding level 7 apprenticeship:**
 - One of the members asked if there was any mileage in co-ordinating any future response with the RCN Education forum, and the education team given the proposal from government to remove level 7 apprenticeship funding as this may affect nursing members that would want to pursue a full master's degree via the apprenticeship route. Wendy Preston, Head of Nursing Workforce who supports the forum leadership agreed and updated the forum that the RCN had submitted a response to the DfE/Skills England regarding concerns of the proposed removal of funding. A committee member later represented at a related discussion and there has been agreement to continue funding related to advanced level practice.
- **Congress 2025:**
 - The steering committee had agreed the congress voting participants at this stage.
 - Learning and wellbeing session plan: Adele Parsons planned to do a session on **Clinical Supervision** and Katie Brown a session on **Neurodiversity in the workplace**
 - Wendy Preston was the staff support for the resolution: Physician associates' debate on the impact physician associates has on the ANP roles
- **ANP Conference 10th Oct 2025:**
 - Sally Faley attended and committee confirmed a virtual conference, reviewed feedback from previous year and plan potential themes for this year event with potential speakers
- **Comms and Social Media:**
 - Stuart Duggan senior writer and digital content editor to help us with any articles we would like to promote and help with our Facebook group etc
- **Quality Assurance of RCN professional learning resources**
 - Donna Munro, RCN Nursing Lead – Education spoke to us on quality assurance (QA) policy provides UK-wide guidance for all staff across the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) who are involved in developing and delivering RCN professional learning resources. All UK-wide RCN resources must comply with this policy. The RCN is committed to delivering high quality professional learning resources through the development of the RCN quality assurance policy. This is

underpinned by the RCN quality assurance framework (QAF) nine quality standards for RCN professional learning resources, which aligns with the [Quality Assurance Agency \(QAA\) quality code](#).

➤ **2025 objectives, workplans and responsibilities are the plans we hoped to achieve for 2025:**

- Ensure a successful virtual ANP conference in Oct 2025
- Submit an FGG bid for information from organisations to inform us on how people become an ANP within their organisation and then write a review
- Submit an FGG bid for a short video on promoting diversity within an ANP role
- Increase communication with forum members and start by doing Blogs
- Monitor NMC work on revalidation and look for opportunities to influence

ANP Steering Committee Highlights 2025:

RCN Congress 2025

We had seven voting places at congress which we filled with a mix of steering committee members and forum members who had applied. We had 17 applications of members to represent the ANP forum at congress.

We spoke at nine of the debates, and this led to one of our attendees being quoted and printed in *Nursing in Practice* around the need for investment in social care, and another one of our members being cited in the *Nursing Times* after speaking about the regulations and roles for Physician Associates.

Outside of the main debates, we ran a learning and wellbeing event on restorative clinical supervision and collaborated with the GPN forum on reasonable adjustments in work for neurodivergent nurses.

We did a session at the forums stand and also participated at the Meet the Forums event.

ANP Conference

The ANP Forum hosted a virtual conference on 10th October 2025 entitled '*Integrated care for global health and the role of advanced practice.*' The conference was well attended with over 134 delegates, earning a revenue of approximately £ 8000. Forty-one responders provided feedback on the event. All sessions were evaluated particularly well; key highlights of the conference were the guest speakers Sir Paul Cann on Loneliness and Nick Hartshorne-Evans on The Pumping Marvellous Heart Failure Patient charity. The content and speakers were rated as 8 or more out of 10 by 80% of attendees. All delegates who provided feedback said they would recommend this conference to others giving a Net Promoter Score of 42.

ANP Film for the General Public

We successfully bid for and received funding to create and produce a short film explaining to the general public the wide range of clinical backgrounds where Advanced Nurse Practitioners can be found, and their roles. This is available here:

<https://youtu.be/KYJbZT86kwc> and [Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum | Royal College of Nursing](#).

Representation to External Stakeholders:

- NHSE Centre for Advancing Practice National Stakeholder Meetings
- RCN representative at the British Association for Cardiovascular Nurses (BANCC) attending all their meetings, including a meeting with parliamentarians and a consultation on the NHS England 10 Year Plan.
- June 2025 worked with BANCC to represent the nursing voice in consensus document:
[Strategies to enhance recruitment of female participants to cardiovascular research: a joint British Cardiovascular Societies' consensus document in collaboration with the British Heart Foundation Clinical Research Collaborative | Heart](#)

There have been multiple opportunities to present on the RCN Levels of Professional Practice, which the steering committee helped to develop:

- Ireland INMO conference March 2025
- BANCC Liverpool conference April 2025
- St George's Conference main speaker September 2025
- BANCC Virtual webinar on progressing through the different levels of practice

Committee Plans for 2026

The ANP Forum Steering Committee has a strategy day in Feb 2026 to further develop plans for the year, but the following are pieces of work already underway:

- ANP Conference 2026
- Increased communication with regular blogs from forum members
- Development and use of various social media opportunities for forum members to let us know what their needs or concerns are
- Publication with RCNi

Name of Forum Chair and staff lead:

Sharlene Hogan and Jen Charlewood (Forum Chairs)

Wendy Preston (Head of Nursing Workforce)

Date Prepared:

18th November 2025