



2025 JOINT REPORT FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FORUMS

Introduction

2025 has been a year of change for all the Children and Young People (CYP) forums. Following member engagement, in March 2025 a decision was made to implement a Forum Merger Programme, moving from the previous CYP forums:

CYP Continuing and Community Care Forum

CYP Professional Issues Forum

CYP Specialist Care Forum

CYP Acute Care Forum

CYP Palliative Care Forum

toward a three-model forum group. A new Professional Lead, Rebekah Overend, was also employed in May 2025, working alongside Carli Whittaker as Head of Practice within the Nursing Practice Academy. **The new Professional Lead and current CYP Forum Chairs want to express their thanks to all current forum committee members for the work that has been completed, the representation committee members have been involved with on behalf of the RCN, and the commitment to raise and address issues brought by forum members over the years in a meaningful way.**

The new forums will be launched in January 2026 as follows:

The CYP: Acute and Emergency Care Forum: for members working in assessment centres, inpatient units- general or specialist, emergency departments, outreach services, transport services or neonatal and paediatric critical care units.

The CYP: Community and Multidimensional Care Forum: for members who work in health visiting, public health, GP services and schools, as well as with children and families with life-limiting conditions, and children with complex care at home or in education.

The CYP: Preventative Health, Advocacy and Welfare Forum: involves any member working in roles which restore and sustain mental health, navigate gender and sexual

health matters with young people, or support the safeguarding of children and young people in homes, care settings or youth justice services.

Members agreed the forums better reflect the core domains where the nursing workforce engage with children and young people's health needs and were consulted on the forum names and core areas for future forum work

Forum membership

Membership across the forums has remained stable overall, recognising that there has been movement of members from the disestablished forums.

All forums have had vacancies within their committees for a variety of reasons across the year, with recruitment activity paused pending the RCN Forum Merger Programme. Each of the revised forums are now in the process of interviewing and appointing a new forum committee and chair in readiness for the launch in 2026. Representation across the four nations at committee level has been variable but all forums have forged links in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to seek advice on forum work.

2025 activities from forum committee chairs

Joanna Grant: CYP Continuing and Community Care Forum activities

- **Representation at RCN Congress**, where the forum spoke to two matters for discussion relevant to children's and community nursing.
- **Support for the RCN CYP Palliative Care Network** with their Forum Governance Group (FGG) application and publication.
- **Presentation at the RCN CYP Nursing Conference in Newcastle**, showcasing research exploring parental experiences during the transition from child to adult services for young people with complex care needs.
- **Collaboration with RCN members** on the development of a *complexity measurement tool* to support equitable planning and delivery of care for CYP with complex needs in community settings.
- **Regular engagement with the Queen's Nursing Institute Community Nursing (QICN) network** and continued collaboration with **Rebecca Daniels** to promote alignment across RCN forums working with children and young people.

Highlights of the Year

The forum has continued to ensure that the voices of nurses working in continuing and community settings are represented within national discussions. The ongoing development of the complexity tool and the visibility achieved through conference and

Congress participation have been particular highlights, reinforcing the forum's influence in this area.

The forum chair, Joanna Grant, was also able to attend the WellChild Awards in London with other representatives of the RCN who sponsored the event.

Impact on RCN Membership

The forum's work has strengthened the recognition of CYP community nursing within the broader context of integrated and social care, ensuring that children and young people with complex health needs are included in RCN advocacy across the four nations. Through its online space and professional networks, with committee members contributing to discussions and sharing examples of good practice, meetings have supported inclusive participation and allowed continued collaboration despite capacity challenges.

Ways of Working

The committee has adapted well to the hybrid model of working, maintaining effective communication and contributing to cross-forum collaboration as part of the RCN's wider CYP restructuring.

Daniel Gooding: CYP Acute Care Forum activities

- **Strategic input into the Forum Merger Project:** helping shape the proposed "CYP Acute and Emergency Care Forum." , in collaboration with the Professional Lead
- **Continued representation at RCN Congress:** submitted a piece on health inequalities which continues to shape work of the college, working alongside the public health forum.
- **Contribution to the RCPCH revised version of Facing the Future: Standards for Children and Young People in Emergency Settings** from Dann Gooding as forum committee chair.
- **Ongoing development of networks:** particularly among advanced practice and emergency nursing colleagues in the four nations, to promote knowledge exchange and strengthen leadership pipelines.
- **RCN consultations:** activities include safe staffing, ongoing mental health support and education standards for advanced clinical practice.

RCN representation

The forum has maintained informal liaison with professional bodies such as the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) Emergency Standards committees, ensuring nursing perspectives are represented in multi-professional developments.

Ways of working

While much of the forum's time has been devoted to governance and structural work, these efforts have laid the groundwork for a more cohesive and sustainable CYP professional network. The main highlight of the year has been the constructive cross-forum collaboration that has fostered a renewed sense of shared identity and purpose among CYP nurses across the UK.

Doris Corkin: CYP Professional Issues Forum activities

- **Representation at RCN Congress, Liverpool 12-15th May**, Susie & Doris voting members... both staged Forum Stand and opportunity to meet Rebekah Overend, new RCN CYP Professional Lead.
 - Susie Wilkie joined the Neurodiversity panel with chair Dr Rachel Major (RCN Education Forum).
 - Doris Corkin contributed to debate on 'Tackling health inequalities', submitted by CYP Acute Care Forum.



- **Representation on the Nursing C&YP Journal:** Doris Corkin is now on the Editorial Advisory Board.
- **Poster Presentation at the RCN Education Conference:** Susie Wilkie presented about Neurodiversity
- **Developed links with the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN):** Doris Corkin has responded to requests from the nurse expert reference group.
- **Leah Rosengarten contributed to the organising committee Celebrating CYP Nursing Conference held at Northumbria on 18th & 19th September.** This was a national event and proved a great opportunity for networking, with Carly Whittaker also being there as a keynote speaker. Leah also presented on the personal and professional development of band 5 Children's Nurses.
- **RCN document 'Guidance for Nurses working in the Independent sector':** has been reviewed and references updated by Jamie Crew (Acute Forum) National Lead for C&YP at Nuffield Health.

- **Publication:** Doris Corkin co-authored a chapter '*Self-care for nurses and nursing teams delivering & evaluating palliative care*' with Ann Oddy & B. Davis (RCN links), in *Children's Palliative Nursing Care*, edited by D. Randall, S. Neilson & J. Downing (2025).

Plans for 2026

With the upcoming forum changes, the priority for 2026 is to ensure a smooth transition into the new RCN CYP Forums, maintaining continuity for members and preserving existing networks. The current CYP forum committee chairs have identified the following:

- **Strengthen four-nation engagement** and representation
- Deliver **educational webinars and professional development events**.
- **Contribute to policy development and consultation responses**
- Ensure **CYP nursing is recognised as a key part of social care nursing**, particularly for children and young people with complex and continuing care needs.
- Advance work on **transition** for young people
- Continue development of the **complexity measurement tool** to enhance understanding and equity in community-based care.
- Find opportunities to **shape and influence nursing practice and education**, whilst addressing professional issues and the growth of CYP network across all nations

Forum chairs:

Joanna Grant: CYP Continuing & Community Care Forum

Daniel Gooding: CYP Acute Care Forum

Doris Corkin: CYP Professional Issues Forum

Professional Lead: Rebekah Overend