

## RCN Forum Annual Report 2021

### **CYP Specialist Care Forum**

#### **Introduction:**

This may be a supplementary report, as it may be that a report from this forum has already been produced by the Chair Gillian Priddy.

The forum committee membership consists of a diverse range of specialities endocrinology, oncology, gastrointestinal and neonatal inter alia. There is considerable overlap between this forum and the interests of the other 4 CYP forums. Education, management, and consultancy are all embedded within the roles of the committee members. The Chair was a very passionate and enthusiastic senior nurse who unfortunately encountered a period of ill health and has unexpectedly stepped back. The entire committee wish her well and hope to see her return when she is fit and able.

Several of the committee members trained as vaccinators and supported the roll out of the vaccination programme in their spare time and will no doubt be doing the same for the booster programme.

#### **Membership of the forum**

Total number:

November 2021 - 3465

November 2020 - 3389

I do not have the data to inform governance regarding number of members, and the breakdown as to which of these regards the forum as first choice. This data might be held by Jannathul Ahmed who is the project co-ordinator for the CYP Forums. I would appreciate access to the platform on which this is held so I can monitor the membership.

Current and established forum committee members are

Angela Cole

Christine Whistler

Jaqueline Johnstone

Doreen Crawford

Gillian Priddy – Chair temporarily stood down.

New members Nellie Kumaralingam and Rachel McQueen have been appointed see below.

Any trends

Committee membership – any vacancies, amount of applications.

I understand that vacancies were recently filled with the established members of the forum completing their tenure. These interviews were facilitated by Gillian, and I recall she was very impressed by the new appointments. There is also some interest in forum members wishing to be co-opted to support the work of the committee. This is to be commended as

this will enable a shadowing process and generate experience regarding the forum responsibilities and processes which will encourage potential committee members of the future to stand for the full responsibility.

### **Reflections on 2021:**

This past year has not been a professionally productive one for the forum. Clinical commitments have been so exacting that volunteer activity for the RCN has been largely suspended. Difficulties were exacerbated by the lack of a substantive Professional Lead for a year. I understand that a recruitment process for this very important post has now been completed but the CYP forums have as yet to be informed who will take the CYP community forward.

To the best of my knowledge no FGG projects from the CYP Specialist Care forum were submitted. Possibly because experience regarding the approval process, clarity of funding and support for the completion of activity has not been good.

The forum did submit a couple of matters for discussion and sought approval and funding for a fringe event for Congress. There were enthusiastic committee members willing to devote their time and support these and vote. Other committee members were prepared to join online. However, the situation regarding the cancellation of Congress and the virtual substitution is a matter of RCN record and regrettable. No doubt the current consultation by QC Bruce Carr regarding the RCN governance, organisation and infrastructure will provide some clarity and make recommendations as to future improvements.

Gillian Priddy was nominated for a nurse of the year award at a prestigious Nursing Times event and did submit a paper at a virtual conference. Going forward committee members have some impressive plans for when clinical activity permits.

A number of articles have been produced by members of the committee and published by Nursing Children and Young People and RCNi specialist resource.

Forum members have worked collaboratively with a number of Royal Colleges and a number of projects such as the SPOT/ PEWS which will be released for pilot soon were influenced by committee members.

Forum members have been involved representing the interests of the RCN for example with HEE with regards to a standardising of neonatal education.

Forum members have commented on NICE Guidance development and on consultations for example the most recent BAPM management of the pre-viable infant born at home.

A large project on Neonatal Careers Competence and Education which includes a 4 country perspective and was delivered a year ago still has to be typeset and cleared by the publication department. The most recent date for release is February next year.

Gillian our Chair was an expert in tweeting and blogging, the incoming and interim Chair is less enthused with the social media experience but will undertake to engage with it, access and privileged access to do so will be required.

Generally, there have been considerable difficulties in forum communication with confusion regarding teleconferences encountered. People would insert dates in their diary only to have another round of e mails cancelling them, would try and log on only to find that there was no one present to allow them to enter. Administration standards have not been high or helpful for example agenda itineraries were not sent out or were sent out so late as to be ineffective. I am unsure if CYP forum chairs have met virtually recently but several were present at the most recent all chairs teleconferences.

### **Covid-19**

The effect of the pandemic on forum activity has been catastrophic. Clinical commitments for the practicing members of the forum have been such that volunteer activity has been severely affected. Any spare time has been devoted to supporting the vaccination roll out.

Very little has worked well over the past year, as considered above. Several people have stood in and done their best the committees thanks are extended to Pera Clarke and Wendy Preston

### **Plans for 2022:**

We have a strategy day planned for February where we will need a full and frank discussion as to form priorities and future direct and strategy to go forward. At present it is perhaps better to say that we will remain flexibly positioned and await developments with regards to the effect of the new Covid variants.

There are a number of very acute challenges which will need to be addressed next year (2022) and going forward, one the relevance of the NMC Child Field of Practice curriculum standards. The Children and Young People Nurse Academic UK are increasingly concerned about the generic nature of the programmes designed to equip children's nurses. The feeling prevalent in the CYPNA UK membership is very much that the NMC Standards are not appropriate for the care of infants and children. The clinical competences in particular are hard to attain and simulation to attain competence in a skill is not the answer.

Oncology challenges inter alia remain, and all children's services encounter the same difficulties as the rest of the NHS. Looked after children continue to increase in number and the needs of the child migrant, immigrant and other marginalised sections of society are not being well met.

A personal objective for 2022 and beyond would be to hold the forum together to stabilise it and get a new Chair established so that the future generation of nurses have an appropriate leadership to support members to function sustainably for the challenges which continue to confront children's nurses.

**Date Prepared: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021**

**By: Doreen Crawford ( interim chair ) on behalf of Gillian Priddy.**