

RCN Midwifery Forum Annual Report 2022

Introduction

The RCN Midwifery Forum was formed in 2015 and the Midwifery Forum Committee has 5 members, with one new appointee from January 2024 and one current vacancy. The aim of the midwifery forum is to enhance the profile of midwifery within and beyond the RCN, as well as contributing to the development of national policies. Our work engages across the UK and takes account of particular requirements in the devolved countries within maternity services and strategies.

Committee Members

Yvonne Bronsky (Chair), Angela Cartwright, Kiara McElroy, Jess Read and Wendy Olayiwola.

Supporting the Forum

Carmel Bagness, Professional Lead for Midwifery and Women's Health,
Project Coordinator, Vitina Marsala.

Membership of the forum

Midwifery Forum membership has 599 members as of 01/10/23

In the recent forum appointment process the Midwifery Forum appointed a new member for a period of four years.

Following the Forum Strategy Day in February 2023, 4 virtual meetings have taken place. These meetings ensured the committee was provided with an opportunity to communicate, network and discuss current issues in maternity care across the UK alongside the planning of future workplans.

Achievements in 2023

Midwifery Forum Strategy Day (February 2023):

The aim of this day was to facilitate strategic planning for the Forum for the year ahead and beyond. The Midwifery Forum Charter and promotional power point presentation were updated. It also included plans for the year, including representation, projects and responding to consultations.

Completed projects

- RCN representation at the international confederation of midwives (ICM) meeting triennium meeting and scientific papers presentation.

Midwifery Forum Poster – A poster to showcase Midwifery Forum and banners for use by the RCN Midwifery Forum. The poster was successfully accepted for use at the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) conference in Bali.

Ongoing projects

- Women's Mental Health and Trauma Informed Care – this is a multi forum project which is developing resources around Trauma Informed Care to raise awareness about the impact of trauma on women's mental health.
- Engaging with the Women's Health Forum on updating the RCN Termination of Pregnancy guidance
- Sexual Reproductive Health competencies for women in custody – a multi forum project with the aim to establish competencies for nurses and midwives working with prisons.
- RCN Menopause position statement for members
- Guidelines for nurses performing Ultrasound screening in fertility care
- Part of the RCN working group responding to the 2023 Congress resolution to support employees with specific women's health and wellbeing needs

- Baby Loss – a review of current issues, following national report and consideration of work needed.

- **Representation:**

The Midwifery forum has been active in representing the RCN and its interest at a wide number of key events and groups throughout the year. Reports have been submitted to FGG on the details of these activities:-

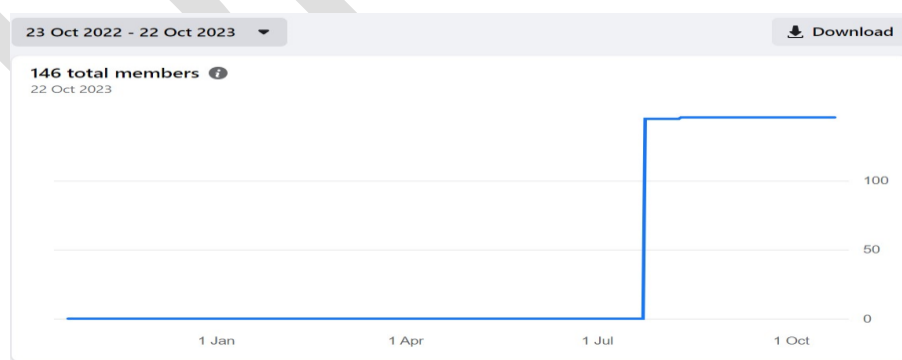
- MMHA (Maternal Mental Health Alliance) UK and Northern Ireland
- ICM (Regulation Committee) and ICM Northern European meetings
- National Bereavement Care Pathways for Pregnancy and childbirth, including NBCP Scotland Core Group
- NHSE Maternity Behavioural Insights Workshop
- NHSE Maternity and Neonatal Conference
- MBRRACE UK – Confidential Enquiry Into maternal deaths
- RCN Educations and Learning Expert Reference Group
- NHSE Infant Screening and Stillbirth Genomics
- RCOG Task and Finish Group to review Good Practice Paper No.4
- Capital Midwife Advisory Group
- ICM Triennial Conference
- CNO/CMO Annual Conference

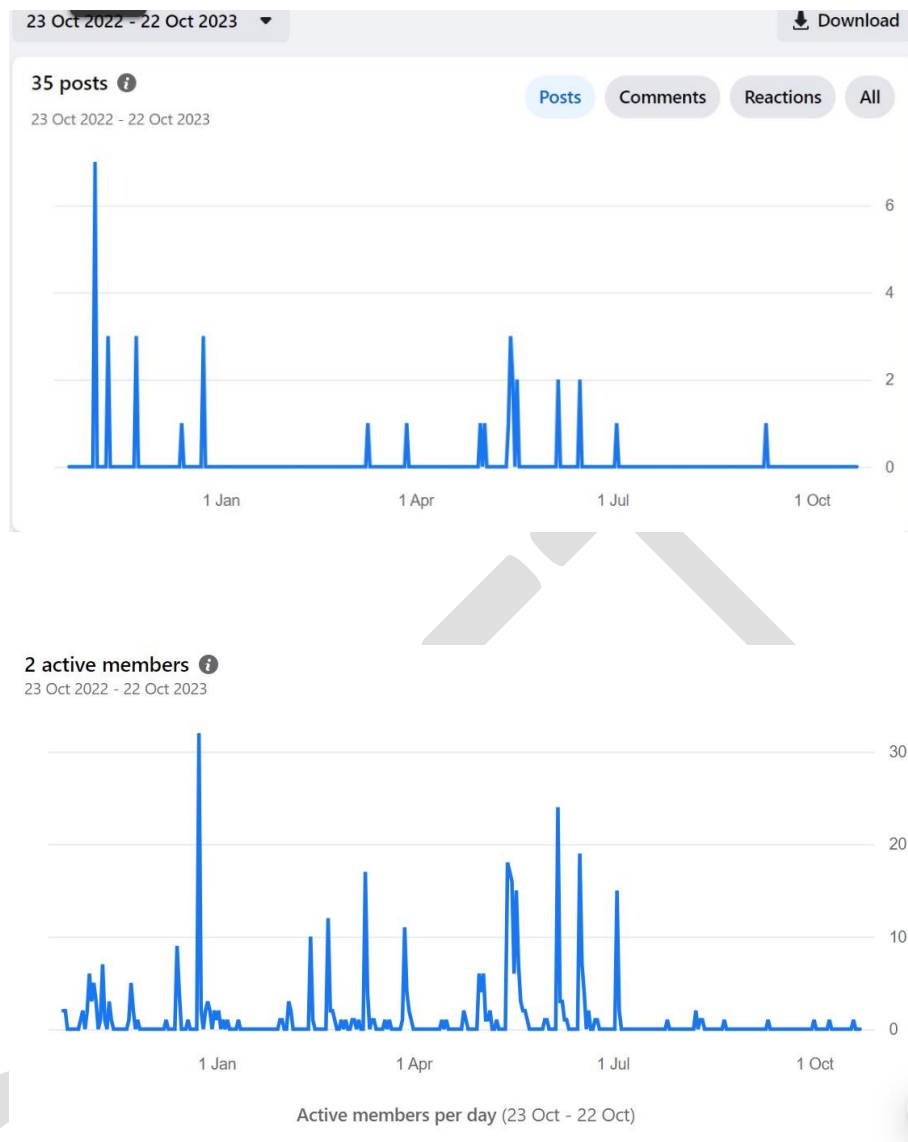
Consultations:

The Midwifery Forum provided consultation and feedback on a number of national and NICE document comments on midwifery related issues.

Social Media:

Facebook Group has 146 members and a Twitter account with 490 followers. Work is ongoing to further develop the Midwifery Forum web page.





Proposed Plans for 2024:

- To continue to raise the profile of the RCN Midwifery Forum and to increase Forum membership.
- Recruit to the midwifery committee vacancy.
- Continue to meet with Senior Leadership Team within the RCN and highlight the work of the Forum and midwifery committee.
- Increase profile in 4 UK countries through country specific meetings and Chief Midwives
- Enhance opportunities to collaborate and increase joint working relationship opportunities with other RCN Forum Committees
- Enhance presence and inclusion at the RCN Congress 2024
- Increase multi professional cross forum working
- Actively engage and attend ICM Board meeting and Scientific meetings
- Develop a Nurses in Maternity Care Position statement

Date Prepared: November 2023

By: Yvonne Bronsky, Midwifery Forum Chair