

RCN Midwifery Forum Annual Report 2024

Introduction

The RCN Midwifery Forum was formed in 2015, and the Committee has 5 members, with two new appointees joining from January 2025. 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, Wendy Olayiwola and Andrea Stebbings

Supporting the Forum

Carmel Bagness, Professional Lead for Midwifery and Women's Health,
Project Coordinator, Megan King

Membership of the forum

Midwifery Forum membership has 631 members as of 08/11/24

Following the Forum Strategy Day in February 2024, 3 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.

Reflections on 2024

Midwifery Forum Strategy Day (February 2024):

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. We have also updated the Forum webpage - <https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Midwifery-Forum>

Completed projects

- **Women's Mental Health and Trauma Informed Care** – this was a multi forum project which developed resources around Trauma Informed Care to raise awareness about the impact of trauma on women's mental health. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/Mental-Health/Trauma-informed-care>
- **Sexual Reproductive Health competencies for caring for Woman in Prison**– a multi forum project which established competencies for nurses and midwives working with prisons. www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/sexual-and-reproductive-health-competency-framework-for-caring-for-women-in-prison
- **RCN Menopause position statement for members**
www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/rcn-menopause-position-statement-uk-pub-011-282
- **Guidelines for nurses performing Ultrasound screening in fertility care**
www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/rcn-nurses-performing-ultrasound-scanning-in-fertility-care-uk-pub-011-259

- **RCN position statement: Nurses & Nursing Associates in maternity care**
<https://www.rcn.org.uk/About-us/Our-Influencing-work/Position-statements/RCN-position-on-registered-nurses-and-nursing-associates-working-in-maternity-services-across-the-UK>
- **Cervical Screening – women with physical disability and women with autism** was a multi form project which will be completed before the end of 2024.
- **Midwifery online seminar – Maternal Medicines and Midwives**
This was an opportunity to have a lunchtime seminar to share updates on Maternal medicine midwives contributions to maternity care.
www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/maternal-medicines-and-midwives
- Publications review completed, include:
 - ANP and Care of Pregnant and Postnatal Women
rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/rcn-advanced-level-nursing-practice-and-care-of-pregnant-and-postnatal-women-uk-pub-011-611
 - Bladder and Bowel care in Childbirth rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/rcn-bladder-and-bowel-care-in-childbirth-uk-pub-011-674
 - Midwife Standards for Multiple Births
[Multiple Births Midwife Standard | Publications | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](http://Multiple%20Births%20Midwife%20Standard%20|%20Publications%20|%20Royal%20College%20of%20Nursing%20(rcn.org.uk))

Ongoing projects

Early Pregnancy Loss Guidance – the aim of this project is to develop guidance for all nurses to support best practice around supporting women and those who may be impacted on by pregnancy loss. It will be an online PDF for nurses, midwives registered nursing associates, healthcare support workers and students of nursing and midwifery who may be responsible and/or involved in the care of women and their families during and following a pregnancy loss. The second part of the project will look at provided events to support distribution of the guidance.

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)
- National Bereavement Care Pathways for Pregnancy and childbirth, including NBCP Scotland Core Group
- NHSE Maternity Behavioural Insights Workshop
- NHSE Infant Screening and Stillbirth Genomics
- Short Life Working Group on Miscarriage Care (Scotland)
- RCN Educations and Learning Expert Reference Group
- RCOG Task and Finish Group to review Good Practice Paper No.4 Stillbirth
- Baby Loss and Healthcare professionals (SANDS)
- National Bereavement Care pathway

International Activity:

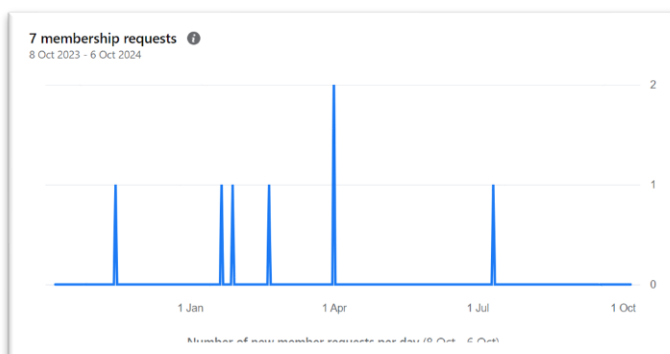
RCN are members of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), and active representation by the RCN was made at the ICM Annual Board meeting on 25 June 2024, where the Council meeting took place on Zoom. Delegates and observers nominated by their Midwives' Association were invited to participate. Only Delegates had the right to speak during the meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in ICM's three official languages Spanish, French and English, was available. [Past Meeting Information | International Confederation of Midwives \(internationalmidwives.org\)](#)

Consultations:

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

Social Media:

Facebook Group has 151 members and an X account with 493 followers (now dormant). The Midwifery Forum web pages are updated and maintained regularly.



Forum Blogs for the year have included:

Bugs off that bump! Vaccinations during pregnancy - [Vaccinations during pregnancy | Blogs | Royal College of Nursing](#)

Challenge, Change, Hope: from the perspective of newly qualified nurses and midwives

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/challenge-change-hope>

Benefits of specialist nurses within maternal medicine <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/benefits-of-specialist-nurses-within-maternal-medicine-080824>

Proposed Plans for 2025:

- To continue to raise the profile of the RCN Midwifery Forum and to increase Forum membership.
- 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 2025
- Increase multi professional cross forum working
- Actively engage and attend ICM Board meeting and Scientific meetings
- Develop guidance to support best practice around supporting women and those who may be impacted on by pregnancy loss.

Date Prepared: November 2024

By: Yvonne Bronsky, Midwifery Forum Chair