

RCN Midwifery Forum Annual Report 2025

Introduction

The RCN Midwifery Forum was formed in 2015, and the Committee has 6 members, with three 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 requirements in the devolved countries within maternity services and strategies.

Committee Members

Angela Cartwright (chair), Yvonne Bronsky (previous chair/resigned 2025), Kiara McElroy (resigned 2025), Wendy Olayiwola, Sana Gul, Catherine Barlow and Andrea Stebbings

Supporting the Forum

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

Membership of the forum

Midwifery Forum membership has 705 members as of 2/11/2025. Following the Forum Strategy Day in February 2025, four virtual meetings of the committee 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 2025

Midwifery Forum Strategy Day (February 2025):

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](#).

Completed projects

- [Pregnancy Loss Guidance for Nursing](#) – developed in conjunction with the Women's Health and Fertility Nursing Forums.
- [Transitions from Fertility to Maternity Care](#) - guidance was updated with Fertility Nursing and Women's Health forums.
- Publications review completed [Pregnancy and disability](#) webpages

Ongoing project

Maternal Medicine Essentials – the aim of this project is to develop guidance for nurses and midwives to support women whose pregnancies are impacted by medical conditions. Podcasts will be developed with experts, to support best practice around supporting women. The second part of the project will promote access and use of these resources.

Consultations:

The Midwifery Forum provided feedback on several national and NICE consultations and comments on midwifery related issues.

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)
- Short Life Working Group on Miscarriage Care (Scottish Government)
- MBRRACE-UK /PMRT (Perinatal Mortality Review Tool) Stakeholder Meeting
- The Interprofessional Experience - Expert Reference Group with NHSE
- Education and Training Foundation T Level Industry Insights Workshop
- Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Event – RCN Eastern Branch presenting on pregnancy and mental health

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.

A successful FCC bid will enable the chair of the committee to attend ICM Triennium board meeting and Congress in June 2026, to continue active engagement with ICM.

Social media and webpages:

Facebook Group has 155 members and an X account with 493 followers (now dormant). Social media activity is reducing, and this is in line with the experiences of other forums. The Midwifery Forum web pages are updated and maintained regularly.

Forum Blogs for the year have included:

- [Investing in Breastfeeding](#)
- [Midwifery matters: representing at RCN Congress](#)
- [Maternal sepsis](#)

Proposed Plans for 2026:

- 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.
- Enhance opportunities to collaborate and increase joint working relationship opportunities with other RCN Forum Committees
- Enhance presence and inclusion at the RCN Congress 2026
- Increase multi professional cross forum working
- Actively engage and attend ICM Board meeting and Scientific meetings, including the triennial meeting in Lisbon.

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By: Angela Cartwright, Midwifery Forum Chair