



RCN Forum Annual Report 2024

Forum Name:

Nursing in Justice and Forensic Forum (NiJaF)

Introduction:

The 'Nursing in Justice and Forensic Forum' steering Committee is composed of a number of committed nurses with career specialisms in delivering healthcare to people who are or who have had significant contact with the criminal justice system. The committee composition is reflective of the UK's 4 nations and is representative of the professional, clinical and strategic knowledge, skills and experience of the wider forum membership. Nursing in justice and forensics takes place in a diverse range of clinical settings and encompasses support in prisons, policy custody, immigration centres, inpatient facilities and community services.

Over the previous 12 months the committee has demonstrated an unrelenting commitment to supporting the needs of forum members, and have been involved in developing and delivering outputs to an extent which far outweighs their voluntary status. The committee have developed a strategic plan which seeks to engage directly with forum members so that they can influence and contribute the forum strategic direction for the coming years. The committee has planned to host a series of events in each of the 4 nations of the UK which will support practice and provide information and feedback that will be used to directly inform strategic objectives for 2025.

Nursing in Justice and Forensics is one of the smaller college forums, however when reflecting on it's activities, it is clear that it retains a significant impact within the professional sector and within the wider RCN. The committee continue to directly influence Government Policy, other professional colleges, organisations and think tanks in order to ensure that the needs of nurses in justice and forensic settings are known and understood.

Membership of the forum

Brief summary on the forum membership, to include:

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Forum members numbers

October 2023	October 2024	1st Choice voting members
3625	3642	1686

Forum Appointments:

There were four forum committee vacancies this year with four successful appointments. It is noteworthy that the committee received 11 eligible applicants this year (an increase of 9 from 2023).

Social Media**Facebook Members:**

490 (increase of 10 since 2023)

Twitter Members

1379 (increase of 108 followers)*Twitter account now stood down.

Reflections on 2024: (Outputs and outcomes)

The committee continue to commit to a values statement which aligns principles, and behaviours with the RCN's guiding Royal Charter. Strategic objectives are closely informed by the four pillars of the 'RCN Group Priorities', that is:

1. To build 1st choice membership
2. Setting clinical standards and supporting practice
3. Providing active personal and workplace support
4. Influencing and shaping policy

The forum committee identified the following key priorities for 2024:

- 1. Host 5 member engagement events in four countries, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and two in England over a 18 month period commencing in February 2024.**

The forum committee have successfully completed five events for forum members and practice colleagues focusing on 'trauma informed approaches to care in secure environments'. Event were held in Belfast (February), Edinburgh (April), Bolton (September), Cardiff (October), and London (December). Each event hosted a range of expert speakers from practice followed by a formulation activity designed to gain intelligence/feedback regarding facilitators/barriers to good practice regionally. This facilitated activity also offered opportunities to delegates for role-modeling, and sharing of advice/good practice. Each event had a significant wellbeing theme throughout and the London event had a mental health first aider to provide a psychologically safe space for members to air current issues thus enhancing the modified action learning focus at the summary event. Supervision and an exploration of psychological safety at work underpinned each contact event, and the London event benefited by inclusion of testimony by people with lived experience.

There were approximately 320 registered delegates across all five events, and 20 individual presentations. 97% of participants rated the quality of events as very good or excellent.

The Formulation activity at each of the event involved asking delegates 5 questions:

- 1. What facilitates good practice in trauma informed care?**
- 2. What acts as a barrier to recognising trauma?**
- 3. What resources/knowledge can help improve a person's experience?**
- 4. How can teams or organisations be supported to adopt A trauma informed approach?**
- 5. What is the future direction of trauma informed practice?**

The formulation activity was enthusiastically completed by delegates and generated a considerable amount of discussion and information. A thematic analysis has been completed and information will be used to inform future forum outputs, and will support an application for congress (matter for discussion/learning and wellbeing event). Key themes will be presented and discussed at the Forum Strategy Meeting, and potential outputs incorporated into the forum committee's strategic plan for 2025.

2. Health and Justice UK/Secure Environments Summit:

The forum committee continue to make an active contribution to the annual Health and Justice UK Secure Environments Summit. Committee members are active members of the Summit's organising team, and have played a significant role in delivery of this years event at the Royal College of GPs head quarters in Euston Sq London. Members of our steering committee have also played an instrumental role in developing and promoting the Health and Justice Uk Communities of Practice (CoP). These regional CoPs are interdisciplinary and bring colleagues together on themed activities to enhance the quality of team working and care delivery across a range of secure care settings. This activity is beneficial as it helps to consolidate professional links between the RCN, RCGP and RCPsych, and enhance the RCNs reputation as an industry leader in this area of specialist nursing practice.

3. Cross Forum 'good practice guidelines: Sexual and Reproductive Health Competency Framework for Women Cared for in Prison':

This competencies framework has been developed for nurses, midwives, and those supporting nursing teams, who provide sexual and reproductive health care to women in prison. It takes account of nursing teams who may have limited experience caring for pregnant women. In producing the framework, committee members worked with colleagues from the Sexual Health Forum and Women's Health Forum – the Framework was published in September 2024.

4. Expert Reference Group:

A key goal on the forum committee's strategy plan was to develop an expert reference group. Whilst some initial work was completed in terms of profiling specific areas of professional expertise, this work was stood down due to guidance from the Forum Governance Group that 'ERGs' would operate outside of Committee's terms of reference and scope. Going forward the committee will seek to develop processes to actively engage membership regarding contributions to specialist areas of work.

5. 'Nursing in Prison and Criminal Justice Settings' Public Exhibition

The Forum committee continue to work with colleagues in the 'History of Nursing Forum' to deliver this important event. The forum committee have supported forum members to contribute to the development of the event, and initial planning sessions have received support from a number of volunteers.

Beyond the strategic objectives for 2024, the forum steering committee have been involved in a range of individual and collective activities which have sought to influence policy, clinical practice, and amplify the voice of nursing in our specialist field. The forum committee presented a learning event at RCN Congress 2024 on Critical Reflective Practice (along the Management and Leadership Forum). Forum committee members also hosted a 'Meet the Forum' event, and a 'World Café' styled forum event. Individual committee members also joined the debates on a range of themes over the course of the event. Social media interest in the work of the forum following Congress was notable.

Other significant activities and representation include:

1. QNI 'Field specific standards for SPQs in community nursing roles.'
 - *Representation on the Advisory Board
 - *Coordinating and populating the consultation for SPQ standards in 'Healthcare and Justice' Nursing
2. House of Lords Launch Event: "How is cancer care best provided to patients in English prisons? Assessing the disease burden in the prison population, experiences of diagnosis, treatment and support, and of receiving and providing cancer care".
3. Low level social needs in prison: Manchester university (Dementia)
4. Marie Curie Prison initiative (Palliative)
5. MacMillan cancer team new advocate initiative for patient journey (Palliative)
6. eHospice interview (Dementia/palliative)
7. Interview by Nursing practice magazine (Dementia)
8. Co-organisation, delivery and presentation at 'Custody and Caring Conference' (Canada)
9. Presentations at Health and Justice Secure Environments Summit
10. Presentation at University of California
11. Presentation at Post graduate Naval support school, Monterey
12. Presentation at California State University
13. Presentation at Humane Prison Project (Palliative)
14. Presentation at California Medical Center (Palliative)
15. Committee representation on QNPMHS advisory group
16. Engagement with colleagues in youth justice teams through 6-weekly meetings
17. Engagement in cross-forum task and finish group to develop a position statement and outputs re: clinical supervision and dynamic reflective practice.
18. Simulated Learning in Secure Environments (research project steering group)
19. Blogs: committee members have completed and supported forum members to complete blog posts relative to their specialist field of practice.
20. Podcasts: Committee members have participated in sector specific podcasts.

What has been the impact or difference made as a result of the member representation?

As can be seen from the information above, forum representation at clinical networks, conferences, RCN Congress, workshops to develop policy and research direction, and an RCNi Job Fair has served to raise the profile of both the RCN and the Forum on a number of levels, both nationally and locally. The ongoing work of the forum will be influenced by intelligence gained through attendance at many of these events. However, what is critical for this forum and nurses working in justice and forensic settings is the raised profile of the area. Through our social media feeds (@drlizwalsh @rcnjusticeforum and Facebook page) we have noted a rise in interest and colleagues reaching out for information and networking opportunities. Without representation at these events and meetings over the last twelve months, the work of the forum would not be progressing as it is.

I feel it is important to note here that these forum committee members are highly valued volunteers and have worked hard during what have been exceptionally challenging times in our criminal justice services.

Plans for 2025:

1. Trauma informed Approaches Resources – the forum committee seeks to develop intelligence and feedback from ‘Trauma-informed Approaches’ events to develop resources to support clinical nursing practice across a range of secure environments.
2. In recognition of the ubiquitous nature of vicarious trauma, the forum committee will plan to generalise learning from forum events and make accessible for nurses working in other fields of practice.

Date Prepared: 16/12/2024
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