

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

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 2024/2025.

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 2022	October 2023	1 st Choice voting members
3561	3625	1706

Forum Appointments:

There were 2 forum committee vacancies this year with 2 successful appointments from 2 applicants.

Social Media

Facebook Members:

480 (increase of 12 since 2022)

Twitter Members

1271 (increase of 234 followers)

Reflections on 2023: (Outputs and outcomes)

At its annual strategy planning meeting the committee addressed the findings from the Carr Report. In acknowledgement of the findings, the committee developed a values statement in order to align committee values, principles, and behaviours with the RCN's guiding Royal Charter. Strategic objectives were 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 following list outlines the key activities identified to achieve objectives included and work completed to date.

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.

Events will focus on 'trauma informed practice and person-centred care', and will be targeted at nurses working in secure justice settings. Each event will host 3 speakers from practice followed by a World Café activity. This facilitated activity will offer advice, good practice examples, and information about barriers to good practice. Each event will have a significant wellbeing theme running throughout and we will have a psychologically safe space for members to air current issues in a modified action learning style wherever possible. Supervision and an exploration of psychological safety at work will underpin each contact. A successful bid has been made to the FGG to provide funding for refreshment for attendees and dates have been confirmed for events in Northern Ireland (06/02/24) and Scotland (01/03/24).

2. RCGP Secure Environments Summit:

The forum committee contributed to the planning and delivery of RCGPs annual summit, held at the Titanic Centre Belfast. The Forum Professional Lead and Chair participated in steering group activities and committee members presented on the day. The committee played an instrumental role in promoting the event and identifying contributors from nursing practice. The RCN's Chief Nurse Nicola Ranger provided the conference's key note address, and the forum professional lead and chair contributed to the opening address and closing statements. This was a very

beneficial activity which has helped to consolidate professional links between the RCN, RCGP and RCPsych.

3. **Cross Forum 'good practice guidelines: Healthcare needs of people with learning disabilities in prison custody':** together alongside the LD forum committee, planning has commenced to deliver a learning event and good practice guidance. The good practice guidance is in its initial stage of development and a working group has been established to progress completion. A conference which focused on the theme of 'supporting people with LD within the criminal justice system' was planned and delivered in Oct . The event was hosted by the University of Winchester and there were approx. 100 delegates in attendance.
4. **Cross forum working to develop knowledge and resources to support trauma informed practice in secure justice settings:** A collaborative working group with the MH Forum and Women's health forum around trauma informed care for women with complex mental health issues in custody has been set up. The committee has provided representation at the inaugural meeting and will continue to provide input to strategy development going forward.

Beyond the strategic objectives for 2023, 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 successfully proposed a resolution item for RCN Congress 2023, seeking the UK Government to meet its national and international legal obligations to meet the healthcare needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. The debate enjoyed cross-forum support, and the resolution passed unanimously. Committee members have been meeting with the allocated staff and PNC members to progress the commitment. The committee was extremely active throughout the congress event, and facilitated two learning and wellbeing events ('A day in the life of a prison nurse', 'Clinical Supervision') as well as hosting 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. NHSe Health and Justice Transform Clinical Reference Group
3. NHSe 'Prisoner end of life care in secure settings' Group
4. NCEPOD Prison Healthcare Report (Consultation)
5. Prison 'Palliative Care and End of Life' Task and Finish Group
6. Scottish Gov: Initial consultation/contribution to development of 'Learning Disability & Neurodiversity Bill'
7. Co-organisation, delivery and presentation at 'Custody and Caring Conference' (Canada)
8. Co-organisation, delivery and presentation at RCGP Secure Environments Summit (Belfast) – Key note from Prof Nicola Ranger

9. NHSe – liaison meetings to support development of national framework to support the care of prisoners in Segregation units.
10. Committee representation on QNPMHS advisory group
11. Engagement with colleagues in youth justice teams through 6-weekly meetings
12. Engagement in cross-forum task and finish group to develop a position statement and outputs re: clinical supervision and dynamic reflective practice.
13. Representation at a range of Job Fairs to promote Nursing in Justice and Forensics
14. Presentation to tRoyal British Legion North Spain Branch (palliative care and veterans)
15. Social Care Research: Low level social care needs in Prison (Uni of Manchester)
16. Representation: National Association ‘Hospice at Home’ Conference
17. RCN/Macmillan: Prison telephone support network
18. NHSe: Justice Nursing animation task and finish group
19. HMPPS Social Care Support Meeting
20. Representation at the ‘Care Navigator’ Forum
21. RCGP: Meeting with Jake Hard – ‘Onward Planning for Palliative Care’.
22. North Wales CNS C Royc: Show casing work in Palliative Care @ HMP Oakwood to Macmillan lead nurses.
23. Prison Healthcare Collaboration: ‘Steven Roberts, Chief Medical Executive specialised bed initiative, California Correctional healthcare services.
24. Simulated Learning in Secure Environments (research project steering group)
25. Blogs: committee members have completed and supported forum members to complete blog posts relative to their specialist field of practice.
26. 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 2024:

In addition to the steering committee strategic planning objectives, plans are underway to deliver activities at RCN Congress 2024.

‘Supporting nurses to speak up’:

an initial scoping activity is being completed to consider this theme as ‘Matter for Discussion’ theme. The theme was identified from learning from the Brook House inquiry (Abuse in an Immigration Detention Centre), and focuses on what nurses need to empower them to speak up in the face of abuse or poor practice.

‘How healthcare views/treats children who are engaged in the justice system’:

This theme is being considered as a resolution and focuses on the moral, ethical, legal and clinical problems which face children who transition from children’s services to adult services within the criminal justice system. Initial discussions are planned with the newly formed network of youth justice nurses in order to scope this theme, identify intelligence from practice, and construct proposal which captures the topography of the practice across the UK.

Date Prepared: 23/11/2023
By: Paul McAleer
Chair of Nursing in Justice and Forensic Forum

***Attached: Values Statement and Strategic Objectives**