

Public Health Forum Annual Report 2025

Introduction

The Public Health Forum promotes, educates and advocates on the value of nursing staff working in, or undertaking activities relating to public health. Public health spans across all specialties, ages, settings and explores how we can promote good health, protect from ill health and design effective healthcare systems.

Our forum aims to support our members to develop their knowledge and skills to enable the public to live longer, healthier, happier and equitable lives, free from harm and free to succeed

We believe that all nurses, midwives, health practitioners and students should utilise the principles of public health wherever they work. We work to raise awareness, respond to consultations, provide and support educational events, publish competency frameworks and guidance, and provide a range of resources on the RCN website.

Membership of the forum

Improving our membership was a key activity for the public health forum this year following a few years of declining membership and we're delighted to see that our membership numbers have increased.

Table 1 – Membership of the Forum

October 2024	October 2025	1 st Choice 2025
9627	9643 (+16)	4341 (+5)

At the start of the year we reviewed the data we had on our forum members, including demographics, agenda for change banding, and roles. Through understanding our membership, we hope to measure our efforts in capturing the diversity of RCN members and explore means to engage those who are underrepresented in our forum.

Steering Committee 2025 membership

- Luke Evans – Chair
- Janet Frimpong – Vice Chair
- Tracey Cook
- Helen Kirk
- Joe Deering
- Julia Waldron
- Mary McHugh (stepped down mid-year)

The forum continues to benefit from its members, who are leading on specific forum activities. We wish to personally thank Sandra Grieve (travel health) and Hanna Kaur (TB nurse specialist) for their work on events and publications.

The forum is supported by:

Jessica Turner – RCN Professional Lead for Public Health
Sandra Hall – RCN Project co-ordinator

Steering Committee Recruitment

The committee members came from a range of public health areas and reflected a wide remit of public health practice.

The Committee received **19 eligible applications** for the 2 vacancies for the recent forum appointments. We are delighted that Julia Waldron will continue her role as steering committee member from January 2026 and we will welcome Rod Thomson to the committee.

We thank those who applied and noted that this year we received an extremely high calibre of candidates.

2025 Activities

The focus of this year was to explore how we could improve the way we communicate with our members, get them involved in forum work, demonstrate the value of the RCN Public Health Forum and to continue the crucial activities and resources that the forum.

Congress 2025

The public health forum presented the following items at Congress 2025:

- Matter for Discussion: The role of nursing staff in quality improvement
- Resolution: Physician Associates
- Resolution: Is current nursing regulation fit for purpose



These all passed and the Public Health Forum are working with the RCN to enact on the outputs of this. We've also been invited to support the delivery of outputs from the Health Inequalities matter for discussion.

We also seconded an emergency item on Men's Health.

We produced three sessions for congress as part of the Education, Learning and Development Programme

seminars for congress:

- Supporting our most vulnerable communities: a seminar on inclusion health. Recording [here](#)
- Nurses' role in a digital world: How to stay human in a non-human world. Recording [here](#)
- Becoming a political nurse: Growing your political potential and finding your voice. Recording [here](#)



Other Congress activities:

- Forum Stand
- Forum Cafe

Ask the Forum

We launched our 'Ask the Forum' offer. This incentive gives members and partners the opportunity to contact the steering committee directly to **create** new content, **partner** with the forum or to **promote** member activities.

We look forward to hearing what comes through and to supporting our members to contribute to the future of public health with our support.

We encourage all members to submit their ideas here:
<https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Public-Health-Forum/Ask-the-PH-forum>



Webinar

Our Webinar on: **Let's Get Moving: The Power of Physical Activity in Nursing Practice** took place on 25th June 2025, 18:15–19:30 which was very well attended. We partnered with the physical activity clinical champions from Sheffield Hallam University and the Diabetes Forum on this event.

Podcast

Earlier this year we launched our Podcast, Society of Health. Produced by the Forum, this series features experts from diverse fields who tackle pressing issues related to health and well-being, exploring the societal factors that impact our wellbeing.

So far, we have had 214 listens across our first three episodes covering Stigma and Gambling addiction.

Listen [here](#)



Conferences

We continued to lead on the RCN and SOM Occupational Health Nursing Conference, now in its eighth year, which took place in November 2025. The theme of this years conference was 'The changing face of workplace health'.

The RCN and NaTHNaC Joint Travel Health Conference 2025 took place on March 2025. We are part of a steering group for the RCN Long-Term Conditions and Health Inequalities Conference that is due to take place in 2026

Publications

TB travel health competencies

Blogs

Changing the World, One Baby at a Time: Family Nurse Partnership by Forum Member, Samantha Parkinson - [link](#)

Building a Society of Health by Forum Chair, Luke Evans - [link](#)

Beyond the finish line: What fitness events can teach us about public health by Forum Steering Committee member, Julia Waldron

Commented [JT1]: I would consider moving the blogs into a separate section under Blogs header as they wouldn't be classed as full publication which is what this section refers to.

Communications

This year we utilised the RCN system that allows us to email members directly. We've been busy, sending members quarterly updates on our activities and inviting them to contribute to a variety of RCN and national activities.

Direct email communications: 37,418 opened emails

Newsletters sent: 4 newsletters

Social Media

X- @nurses4ph - Archived

Bluesky – @RCNPublicHealth.bsky.social – 48 followers (created this year)

Facebook – 806 (+18)

Representations

The UK Joint Tuberculosis Committee (JTC) – Forum member, Hannah Kaur

Gambling with Lives Launch Event – Forum chair, Luke Evans

CNO Professional Strategy – Forum chair, Luke Evans

Consultations

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Men's Health Strategy for England: Call for evidence

This call for evidence was shared directly with Public Health Forum members who provided valuable insights into the needs of this population group for this strategy.

We thank all members who contributed to this consultation and used their membership of this forum to shape national policy, ensuring that the voice of Public Health nursing was heard.

Plans for 2026

We recognise that this has been a year of significant change and uncertainty for healthcare staff in public health, with the new government transforming how the NHS is organised and the development of the workforce strategy.

The forum will seek to ensure that the voice of public health nursing is well represented when we meet to develop our 2026 strategy, ensuring that our members are able to contribute and lead on activities in this space.

Luke Evans and Jess Turner
22/11/2025