

RCN Forum Annual Report 2024

Forum Name:

Public Health Forum

Introduction:

Short introduction about your forum

The Public Health Forum promotes the value public health nursing, ranging from travel health, immunisation, TB, sexual health, HIV, health protection and occupational health. It is essential to promote good health and protect against ill health for individuals, communities and across the population.

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

Brief summary on the forum membership, to include:

- Total number - all and first choice
- Any trends

As of October 2023, there were 9809, a slight decrease from October 2022 to 9627 to this year 2024. With 4436 members with first choice voting members, again slight decrease.

Table 1- Membership of the forum

October 2023	October 2024	1 st Choice voting members
9809	9627	4436

Forum Appointment

At the start of the year the steering committee had a full complement of members (six). The committee members come from a range of public health areas to reflect a wide area of public health practice.¹

Two spaces on the committee, were vacant for the start on January 2025, the chair's and two committee members. All 3 spaces have been filled. One was a current member, extended for further 2 year. Existing member appointed into the chair's role, commencing January 2025. One new member appointed, from background of sexual health, who will join also join in January 2025.

The Committee received 13 eligible applications for the 2 vacancies for the 2024 forum appointments.

The annual strategy planning meeting was held hybrid on 05 February 2024.

The forum committee members have their profiles on the webpage, this will need revising next year (2025). The webpage also includes list of extended contacts from the wider public health forum. These colleagues have particular skills and expertise, and their role and biographies are also represented on the forum page. They have supported the forum and the wider public health work of the RCN with; specific projects, alliance membership to various stakeholder groups and in helping to keep the various public health related clinical topic pages up to date. It will be revised next year to reflect new members.

Reflections on 2024: (Outputs and outcomes)

From the strategy day the forum planned to deliver various projects, in line with the four Pillars of RCN Group Strategic Priorities:

- Provision of education and learning
- Setting clinical standards and supporting practice
- Active personal and workplace support
- Influencing and shaping policy

Projects:

- TB competency framework
- Sexual Health competencies in prisons

Events (including webinars) and conferences:

- Promoted RCN Travel competencies at the: ISTM conference in Basel
- RCN / SOM conference
- Public Health representation at the Joint TB Committee

Congress 2024:

The public health forum presented the following items:

- Matter of discussion: Definition of nursing
- The forum also participated in the annual event: World Café.
- Learning and Wellbeing events as follows:
 - The importance and challenges for nursing staff to adopt healthier lifestyles and how to support ourselves
 - Understanding 'burnout,' and the effects this has on professionals and their health and wellbeing in the work environment
 - Unlocking opportunities: navigating your path in independent health and social care – breaking in, not break out!
 - Immunisation across the lifespan

Social media

Public Health Facebook page has 788, increase from last year (765) members.

The @nurses4ph X (handle was initiated in January 2016 and followers have increased to 896 from 2023 (777) and following 250. The forum continues to tweet and retweet public health messages.

Table 2- Twitter statistics

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Followers	300	363	457	552	650	701	777	896
Following	n/a	143	181	200	216	216	216	250

Public Health RCN Representation

Area of Practice / Forum	Authorising Advisor	Member / Represor	Business Support Staff	Host of event	Date of Event	Representation Report received (yes/no)
Public Health Forum	Jess Turner	Hanna Kaur	Sandra Hall	Joint TB Committee (British Thoracic Society -	15 April 2024	Yes
Public Health Forum	Jess Turner	Sandra Grieve	Sandra Hall	NECTM9	21-24 May	Yes

Plans for 2025:

Aspirations for future work

- 8th joint event with NaTHNaC is confirmed for ?2025
- TB webinar for wider nursing community including on BCG vaccination – to be arranged
- Complete review on TB case management tool
- Clinical webpages, including TB

Date Prepared: 15 November 2024

By: Hanna Kaur, Chair – Public Health Forum

¹ <https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/forums/public-health-forum/meet-the-team>