

RCN Forum Representation - bi-annual summary report



Name of Forum	Public Health Forum	Date of Report	8/4/2025 (Oct 2024- March 2025)
Professional Lead	Jessica Turner	Forum Chair	Luke Evans

Please provide a summary of how the forum has represented the RCN over the past 6 months and the key points for FGG to note:

Sandra Grieve

Sandra Grieve, RCN member and former steering committee member, has represented the RCN in her field of travel health for several years.

- 1) Over the last six months Sandra attended the Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine (NECTM9) in Copenhagen Denmark. NECTM is a not-for-profit event focused on education for travel health practitioners. The RCN is a founding partner and the only group solely representing nurses. Sandra is a member of the Steering Group and the Scientific Committee and contributed to developing the nurse symposium programme and chaired the session.

This was a full day programme consisting of topics particularly relevant to nurses and delivered by nurses in practice. The session was well received with positive feedback. Travel health services in the UK are delivered mainly by nurses which is not the case in other countries, including our NECTM partners. The RCN is a known leader in the field of travel health and has been responsible for developing guidance e.g. [RCN Travel Health Nursing: career and competence development | Publications | Royal College of Nursing](#) which continues to be shared with nurses around the world and adapted to travel health practice in their home country. The RCN Public Health Forum also partners with National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) in delivering an annual travel health study day delivered by experts. As the travelers' itinerary and health needs become more complex travel health advice is ever more important. Nurses should be skilled and up to date with evidence-based information to enable delivery of current advice to keep traveler's safe.

Luke Evans

Luke Evans, Chair of the RCN Public Health Forum Steering Committee. Luke served on the steering committee for 12 months prior to taking up the role as Chair in January 2025.

- 1) In March 2024 Luke represented the RCN at a Gambling with Lives Launch Event, hosted at the House of Commons by Abtisam Mohamed MP and Gambling with Lives. Gambling with Lives (GWL), is a charity supporting bereaved families who've lost someone due to gambling addiction. James Grimes, Director of Chapter One and Judith Williams (RN) Head of Family support shared their experiences recently on a podcast developed by the Public Health Forum. Following this James personally invited Luke to the launch.

The purpose of the event was to launch Chapter One, a support system for those affected by gambling which also offers an educational suite and training for healthcare professionals. In Greater Manchester, through raising awareness amongst health and care professionals, Chapter One support and training increased the number of referrals to the regional gambling clinics by 100%. Gambling activities are currently monitored by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, there is incentive within government to move this into a healthcare governmental oversight.

What has been the impact or difference made as a result of the member representation; for example you might want to consider:

- How has it informed practice (e.g. clinical, policy, education, research) and the work of the forum/organisation?
- How has it influenced developments/changes in areas of practice (e.g. clinical, policy, education, research)?
- How has it impacted any of our positions?
- Has it provided intelligence that the RCN would not have known without representation?
- How has the representation raised the profile of the RCN?

1) As the RCN is a known leader in the field of travel health, collaboration with other countries and travel health bodies is always well received. NECTM is focused on education, so the guidance documents developed by the Public Health Forum are shared and adapted, even translated to another language for nurse practicing in other countries. Nursing and nurses are facing challenges everywhere and share concerns for patient care. Contacts and friendships are formed through NECTM attendance and networking. It's important to share best practice and to experience how travel health is practiced in other countries. The advent of online education has also enabled continued contact, support and information sharing.

2) Problem gambling is a public health issue. Historically, gambling was seen as an individual issue and not well recognised as a mental health concern. Through the 'Society of Health' podcast, the Public Health Forum explore the impact of these lesser-known issues, and explore the role of policy, communities and healthcare on these vulnerable groups, to better understand and support them.

This meeting gave the RCN the opportunity to meet with key people in this space, including Mental Health Nurses, innovators such as GamBan and GamStop and those who had lived experience of problem gambling.

Luke has proposed that in the future a scoping group be formed amongst interested RCN forum members to explore the opportunities for nurses to better support this population group. This group would explore what the role of the nurse is to reduce gambling related harms. Subjects to explore: Greater awareness to signpost patients to resources; Nurse training curriculum; Integration into pathways for social assessments in mental health or GP settings. There is limited RCN activity in raising awareness of problem gambling, with the Royal College of General Practitioners and Royal College of Psychiatry each publishing support, resources and training.

Any other relevant information you would like to share with FGG?

Many thanks to both Sandra Grieve and Luke Evans for their time and contributions to these meetings, during this 6-month period. I very much recognise the work that goes into them pre, during and post, which is done so on a voluntary basis. Sandra has done this for many years and her contributions are invaluable. Luke, as a newer member of the steering committee and recently appointed Chair, has come in with enthusiasm, leadership and a passion to make a difference.