

Notes

RCN Urgent & Emergency Care Forum Annual Strategy Day

Thursday, 12 March 2026 at London HQ Room 512

Attendees

<p>Forum Committee Members Sarah Cato (SC) Chair Natalie Stringer (NS) (Vice Chair) April McKay (AM) (Virtual) Sara Morgan (SM) Matthew Osborne (MO)</p>	<p>RCN Staff Kendal Andreason (KA) – Professional Lead Denise Alexis (DA) - Project Coordinator</p> <p>RCN Support Teams Sophie Blackmore (SB) Dawn Williams (DW)</p>
<p>Apologies Rachel Bird (RB) Phil Hill (PH) Hannah Hegarty (HH)</p>	

Agenda Items

No	Description
1.	<p>Introductions & Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to April McKay newly appointed forum member. Filming activity taking place for promotional material (short clips to be used on the UECF webpage and for communications). Purpose of the day: strategy, planning, competencies, communications, and external partnership review.
2.	<p>Forum Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Forum Membership - 8746 ➤ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/RCNEmergencyCareAssociation ➤ BlueSky: https://bsky.app/profile/rcnemergencycare.bsky.social <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many members unaware of the forum's purpose. Limited visibility in urgent/ambulatory/acute care sectors. Engagement low on social media platforms. <p>Planned actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve visibility in RCN magazine, Emergency Nurse, digital comms, and website. Create a recruitment and awareness campaign particularly targeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ambulance service nurses

- Urgent care nurses
- Acute and ambulatory care teams
- Increase frequency of blogs, updates, and educational content.

Social Media & Communications

- **Facebook:** low but better engagement than Blue Sky.
- **Blue Sky:** extremely low engagement.

Action: NS to close account.

- Preference to wait for the RCN “Nest” platform before expanding into new channels.
- Instagram considered but may require more content production capacity.

Content Plan

- Establish a rotating blog schedule.
- Ensure blogs are released around relevant national events (e.g., Congress).
- Use social media to amplify learning resources, journal content, and competency releases.
- Explore journal club or "clinical question of the month" style posts (inspired by RCEM & Trauma/Orthopaedics Forum).

Action: SC to create blog schedule.

Action: MO to lead the journal club - identify journals monthly, post on Facebook for discussion, send to SC to include in MCC.

3. Committee Updates

Committee update action log and give a brief update on current issues and agree their External Partnerships & Representation.

RCEM (Royal College of Emergency Medicine)

- Strong collaborative relationship.
- They are grateful for UEC Forum stance on the BMA ACP survey (widely considered biased).
- Continue joint work on:
 - Clinical Leadership and Service Design Committee (and Nursing Workforce Standards) (KA and NS)
 - ACP Credentialling Committee (KA)
 - Better Basics Project (SC)

Society of Acute Medicine. See item 8 for full discussion

	<p>FEN, NHSE, Falls Groups, Strangulation Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM to continue relationship with FEN. • SM attending RCP National Audit of in-patient falls • PH continuing with strangulation guidance work. • PH continuing with NHSE NCAG Pathways. • RB and KA to attend the RCN Acute Care Symposium 8 July. <p>Four country approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited engagement due to internal restructuring in RCN Wales. <p>Action: KA to seek contact with Northern Ireland networks and Scotland link.</p> <p>BMA ACP Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns raised by multiple professional bodies about bias and the potential undermining of ACP roles. • RCEM sent supportive communication to ACPs. • RCN ACP Forum expected to release their own statement; UEC Forum to help signpost members to relevant guidance. <p>Corridor Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing national problem. • UEC Forum continues to maintain strong nursing voice in relevant committees. • KA to meet regularly with Lucy Muchina (RCN DCNO) to feed into Corridor Care work. <p>Education & Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursing Associate role boundaries ○ Apprenticeship/alternative training routes ○ University closures and financial pressures ○ Workforce pipeline concerns
4.	<p>Congress Planning 2026</p> <p>The committee discussed the upcoming agenda and plans for the months ahead.</p> <p>Action: MO to act as shepherd/point of contact for non-committee members attending.</p>

- WhatsApp group to be created to support attendees.
- Forum to be present on RCN exhibition stand (dates TBC).
- Blog planned for pre-Congress communications.

5. **Marketing plan for release of competencies**

Competency Framework

- Level 1 & 2 UEC Competencies updated.
- KA working through first part of publication to ensure guidance information aligns with the changes made.
- Marketing plan will be important.

Action marketing plan to include:

- How to guide
- Launch via social media
- Link on forum webpage
- Webinars and Podcasts
- Announcement via the Members Communication Centre (MCC)
- Letter to all the heads of the NHS trust to direct them to the new competencies. – access the heads of each trust via the RCN branches.

Action: SM to write a how to/this is the competencies blog!

Future competency work (level 3)

- Level 3 Competency Development. To focus on leadership, including:
 - Shift leadership (e.g., running resus)
 - Decision-making
 - Team management & escalation
 - Situational leadership

Additional considerations

- Ensure alignment with:
 - NMC Advanced Practice Standards
 - NHSE ACP frameworks
- Include Nursing Associates where appropriate and clarify role boundaries.

Timeline

- Drafting to begin post-Congress.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer development period. • Aim for autumn completion, subject to RCN governance and FGG approval. <p>Action: DA to create a project plan for level 3 competencies.</p>
6.	<p>Model ED discussion</p> <p>Discussion of ED mental health nurse roles and variable practice across trusts. It's a statement of intent not addressing the underlying issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 72-hour bed waits ○ Lack of clarity over role boundaries ○ RNs providing care without mental health training • Proposal for joint webinar with NHSE Mental Health Leads. <p>Action: KA to update the committee if anything comes out of it.</p>
7.	<p>RCN Support Team Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sophie Blakemore - Emergency Nurse 1:15-1:30 pm ➤ RCN library – Dawn Williams 1.35-2:00pm Review of subject guides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/Subject-Guides/urgent-and-emergency-care <p>Sophie's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Nurse Journal now officially part of RCN (post-merger with RCNi). • Publishes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuous online content ○ 6 print editions/year ○ Peer-reviewed clinical articles ○ “How-to” articles (concise, 2000–2500 words) ○ Practice questions (1000 words) <p>Requests for the forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide editorials (particularly on competencies). • Submit practical clinical pieces. • Suggest NICE guideline updates for news/features. • Provide content for leadership or educational topics.

	<p>Action: MO to continue as main link with Emergency Nurse</p> <p>Dawn's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating the Urgent & Emergency Care Subject Guide. • Forum tasked with providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key reports ○ Updated guidelines ○ Removal of outdated resources ○ Additional paediatric, mental health, and acute links <p>Agreed additions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model ED (NHSE) • Six Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care (Wales) • Updated RESPECT policy • Updated sepsis guidelines • Links to relevant forums (Paeds, Mental Health, ACP) <p>Action: KA to link the resus work to the UECF webpage</p>
8.	<p>Acute Care/Society of Acute Medicine (SAM) work planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAM members wish to establish an RCN Acute Nursing Forum – UEC Forum position is that UEC already covers this scope and collaboration is preferred. • SAM representative Hannah to attend future meeting. • Agree that there is huge benefit of a strong collaborative relationship. • Encouraged to continue joint work on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acute Medicine Competency Framework ○ 48-hour standards <p>Action: KA to invite HH to future meeting.</p>
9.	<p>Forum Work Plan & Strategic Objectives (2026)</p> <p>Review/update of RCN forum publications/resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review of UECF webpages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Urgent-and-Emergency-Care-Forum ○ Updates required ➤ Conferences/webinars ➤ Blogs schedule plan 2026

- UECF survey results
- UKAOS Alert Card and Cancer Forum Core Concepts Project

Member Survey – Key Findings (49 responses)

What members want:

1. Workforce and staffing support
2. Professional development and progression
3. Education and training
4. Clarity on ACP roles and pathways
5. More communication (emails preferred)
6. Webinars and online learning

Actions:

- SC to seek collaboration with ACP Forum (Charlene).
- SC to increase frequency of MCC communications.
- Promote competencies more visibly.
- Develop clearer educational materials.

Communications

- Two-stage communication to all members in April:
 1. Introduction to the committee + film clips
 2. Summary of survey and actions planned
- Restart regular blogs and social content.

Competencies

- Finish Level 1 & 2 final review.
- Begin Level 3 drafting June–Sept (FCC bid to be completed for July meeting)
- Prepare “how to use the competencies” guide.

Partnerships

- Connect with ACP Forum (Denise & April).
- Continue collaboration with SAM & RCEM.
- Reconnect with RCN Wales and Northern Ireland where possible.
- SC and RB to meet with the RCN Workforce team (RB lead)

	<p>Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise attendance days. • Set up WhatsApp coordination group. • Prepare pre-Congress blog and stand rota. <p>Library resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Dawn with updated list of documents and links. <p>Strategy & Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set meeting dates through January next year. • Plan leadership succession (Vice Chair/Chair) in summer. • Strategy Day 2027 likely in February.
10.	<p>Recruitment & Succession Planning</p> <p>Role of Chair (2027) Action: DA to be tabled at monthly teleconference.</p>
11.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation expressed for all contributions. • Recognition of the progress the forum has made over the past years. • Commitment to increasing visibility, member engagement, and professional leadership.
12.	<p>Close</p>