

Royal College of Nursing submission of examples to contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

With a membership of around 435,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies, voluntary organisations and international agencies.

Background

The RCN welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department of International Development's (DfID) survey to identify key RCN policies and programmes that are contributing towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The focus for the RCN's response is the work being undertaken by the College to address the SDGs in the UK, given that they call on all countries to seek to achieve the goals and that the RCN's prime focus is on improvements in the UK.

The examples provided relate in particular to SDG 3 ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing, SDG 4 quality education, SDG 5 gender equality and SDG 13 climate action. These span RCN initiatives to shape and influence national policy, improvements in professional practice and individual support, advice and engagement of nursing staff in the UK.

Many of the programmes of work listed in this survey response are interlinked. The RCN's work to reform funding for nursing students, for a more inclusive education system and one that can increase the domestic nursing workforce supply to meet patient needs, complements the RCN's evidence gathering and campaigning for staffing for safe and effective care in the UK health and care systems. The RCN's international workforce programme to shape future UK immigration and professional registration systems seeks to balance the medium term need to attract health professionals from other parts of the world with a commitment to address overreliance on international nurse recruitment for the long term in the context of global nursing shortages and the need for ethical international recruitment.

The individual examples are grouped by SDG as follows:

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing

- Campaign for staffing for safe and effective care
- International nursing workforce programme
- Career development and continuing learning for nurses
- RCN Accreditation of programmes
- RCN Advanced nursing practice credentialing
- RCN strategic research alliance
- Programme on anti-microbial resistance (AMR)

SDG 4 Quality education

- Nurse student funding reform and policy incentives

SDG 5 Gender Equality

- Modern slavery and trafficking
- Female genital mutilation

SDG 13 Climate Action

- Procurement – small changes big differences campaign
- Improving air quality through the UK Health & Climate Change Alliance

The summaries for each area of work are attached based on the survey questions provided by DfID. The RCN would be happy to provide more detailed information on request.

Royal College of Nursing
January 2019

Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) campaign: staffing for safe and effective care based on population need

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

This is an RCN project

We have also engaged extensively with nurse leaders and our membership across different care settings. The evidence we have collected to-date on this issue can be accessed here: <https://www.rcn.org.uk/employment-and-pay/safe-staffing>

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well being

Target: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3. Describe your policy or project.

Across the UK there is a workforce crisis, particularly due to a lack of registered nurses, that is impacting national health and social care systems ability to provide and deliver safe and effective care for the population.

In 2016 the RCN's membership gave the college a mandate to prioritise this issue at its Congress, through a resolution which called for 'RCN Council to lobby the governments of England, Northern Ireland and Scotland to follow Wales and deliver enforceable safe staffing levels.

As noted this project builds on the work that first began in Wales, where nurse staffing legislation was introduced in 2016/17. The RCN has developed a number of UK wide principles that we require to ensure nurse staffing in order to deliver safe and effective care. These include

- *A governance framework that details responsibility and accountability for ensuring an adequate supply of registered nurses and nursing support staff is available throughout the health and social care system to meet the needs of the population.*
- *Ensuring that the right number of registered nurses and nursing support staff with the right knowledge, skills and experience are in the right place at the right time.*

- *A workforce strategy addressing national, regional and local levels, detailing the overall aim, strategic objectives and required actions.*
- *Workforce plans developed at national, regional and local level to support strategic objectives as detailed in the workforce strategy.*
- *Robust commissioning arrangements for pre- and post-registration education and development.*

The RCN's campaign for staffing based on population demand will help ensure that the investment required to meet this need is sustainable (because it is based on the changing needs of the resident UK population) and is ethical (because it advances universal health coverage).

Underpinning the problem is the lack of supply, particular of registered nurses who are being educated and recruited domestically. The impact of this is an increase in the demand for staff from other countries outside the UK, which will further contribute to the global nursing shortage..

Therefore, parallel to this work the RCN is look at what specific policies need to be implemented to grow and support the domestic supply across the UK, where overall there has been a decrease in the number of people studying in recent years. This is particularly true of England which has seen a significant drop since reforms to the funding policy. We are submitting a more detailed project case study detailing our work on expanding access to nursing education which will describe this work in more detail.

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Patients, nurses and other health professionals.

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

This is a UK wide project but within that there are specific delivery plans for each of the four countries to reflect the devolved nature of health and social care across the UK. Each of these plans are at different stages, in Wales nurse staffing legislation was introduced in 2016/1. Whilst in Scotland, legislation is currently going through the Scottish Parliament.

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

In 2016, the RCN was instrumental in securing legislation for nurse staffing levels in Wales [Nurse Staffing (Wales) Act 2016], and in producing related statutory guidance. This legislation has been implemented since April 2018.

In 2018, a draft Bill was put before the Scottish Parliament [Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Bill]. The RCN are currently working with stakeholders and members of the Scottish Parliament to influence the development of this Bill and support it in becoming law.

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

Staffing for safe and effective care is a national priority and the campaign in UK wide, with country specific plans, underpinned by the principles, which reflect the devolved nature of the health and social care system across the UK. These plans have both national and local level elements.

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

No.

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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**Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable
Development Goals**

Name of policy or project:

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) International nursing workforce programme

Which aims to ensure:

Fair systems and clear routes for international nurses, appropriately trained, to join the UK nursing workforce as an addition but not replacement to UK trained nurses.

UK workforce policies on international recruitment that support and do not undermine health systems in other countries.

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

Some aspects of the programme are undertaken in collaboration with the Cavendish Coalition (made up of 36 health and social care organisations from across the UK focusing on Brexit and the future workforce)

Some of the work on improving information/advice individual EU nurses from countries which the UK did not historically recruit from (eg Spain, Portugal) was undertaken with national nurses associations in other European countries.

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well being

Target: – achieve universal health coverage including access to quality essential health services

Target: - increase health financing and recruitment, development and retention of the health workforce in developing countries

3. Describe your policy or project.

This programme includes:

- *Analysing and publishing evidence on the impact of European Union (EU) and international migration on health and social care services in the UK. This includes jointly commissioned research with the Cavendish Coalition and RCN evidence submissions to the Home Office Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)*

- i. <https://www.nhsemployers.org/-/media/Employers/Documents/Cavendish-Coalition/NIESR-Report-Brexit-Health-and-Social-Care-Workforce.pdf?la=en&hash=5A65C9F729C9CED9E55FA42E9B9A1D92F4441EF0>
- ii. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693477/Royal_College_of_Nursing.pdf
 - *Making recommendations to influence the future UK immigration system and professional registration requirements which recognise the valuable contribution of international nurses to the UK, utilising evidence as well as individual experiences of the RCN's members.*
- i. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007181>
- ii. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/royal-college-of-nursing/documents/publications/2017/october/pdf-006508.pdf>
 - *Promoting ethical recruitment practices in the UK including application of the World Health Organisation Code of Practice on international recruitment of health personnel and assurance of benefit any "mutual benefit international recruitment schemes" for the UK, source countries and individual professionals.*
- i. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-004939>
- ii. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/royal-college-of-nursing/documents/policies-and-briefings/consultation-responses/2018/conr-2718.pdf>
 - *Providing advice and guidance to EU and international nurses registering and working or seeking to work in the UK, through our online information services, immigration advisory service and face to face support.*
- i. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/royal-college-of-nursing/documents/publications/2017/may/pub-006164.pdf>
- ii. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-help/member-support-services/immigration-advice-service>

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

*International nursing staff in the UK
UK health and care services
Health systems in developing countries with nursing shortages.*

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Social, economic, political

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

Recognition in the MAC's recommendations of September 2018 to government on future immigration of the valuable contribution of international health staff to the UK health system which outweighs any cost burden of their use of such services. The MAC also supported the RCN's recommendation to remove the arbitrary cap on highly skilled migrant visas.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-advisory-committee-mac-report-eea-migration>

The UK Government's White Paper on immigration published in December 2018, also supports removal of the cap, and supports an RCN recommendation from RCN members' experiences to streamline and simplify the immigration process.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-future-skills-based-immigration-system>

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (the UK nursing regulator and registration body) has adopted a number of recommendations made by the RCN regarding changes to how internationally educated nurses are assessed before coming onto the register. These are:

- That new routes for English language-testing of international nurses joining the register be introduced to help improve the number of pathways available to nurses to demonstrate sufficient competency in English.*
- That further engagement be undertaken with RCN members looking at what a modern, fit-for-purpose English testing system for nursing should look like.*
- That a review be undertaken into concerns of inconsistent marking practices for one of the tests.*

RCN Guidance for international nurses seeking to work in the UK (has been adapted by other nurses associations, and translated into Portuguese by the Portuguese nurses association.

The RCN's Immigration Advisory Service advises circa 400 international nurses each year.

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

This programme relates to UK wide policy, but also takes a global perspective.

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

No. However, our position statement references WHO's code of practice and ethical recruitment principles and the Millennium Development Goals.

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) career development and continuing learning for nurses in the UK project

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

*RCN
NHS local organisations and trusts
Health Education England*

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well being

Target: increase health financing and recruitment, development and retention of the health workforce in developing countries

NB the RCN's work to support career pathways and learning and development for nurses in the UK aims to improve professional practice and recruit and retain UK nursing staff in health and care services in the UK and reduce dependence on international recruitment and its impact on the nursing shortages in developing countries.

3. Describe your policy or project.

The project is focused on promoting ways into and through nursing and supporting recruitment and retention of nurses in the UK workforce)has a number of elements to recruit and retain nurses:

- *Online support for career development and revalidation*
- *Online learning and blended learning for nurses*
- *Leadership development*
- *Cultural advocacy programmes to address discrimination.*

Career pathway project

In order to showcase nursing as an attractive career option the RCN are developing an online resource outlining the possible careers available for those considering nursing as a career. This will assist current nurses to plan their careers in a more systematic way. It will detail possibilities in the four pillars of nursing – clinical, education, leadership and research, across the four fields of nursing and in a variety of settings including home, near to home and in hospital.

Technology Enhanced Learning

In order to enhance the knowledge and skills of current nurses, the RCN has invested in a new online learning management system, to deliver online learning and to support the delivery of blended learning modules. This includes the development of an Infection Prevention and Control blended learning module.

Leadership development work

Nursing leadership and the development of individual nurse leaders is imperative for the future of the nursing profession. With this in mind, the RCN currently offers five leadership development programmes for nurses at all levels. These are all transformational leadership programmes, many with service improvement projects designed to improve service user care, as outputs.

Supporting nursing revalidation to ensure retention of nurses in the UK workforce

When revalidation was introduced for nurses and midwives the RCN worked with the regulator the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to ensure nurses and midwives were ready and prepared to revalidate. We developed an online resource that provides guidance and support with examples of good practice and case studies. In addition we held a large number of workshops across the UK where we supported and informed the profession. This has had a significant impact in helping retain nurses and midwives in the workforce across the UK.

Cultural advocacy programmes to address discrimination in the workplace to promote recruitment and retention of all cultures

The RCN Cultural Ambassador programme addresses the overwhelming evidence showing that staff from black and minority ethnic groups are over-represented in the disciplinary process and continue to face action for issues that white nurses do not - greater numbers of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) nurses are reported to the NMC and higher proportions of cases involving BME nurses reported to the NMC result in a 'no case to answer' outcome.

The RCN has sought to address these concerns through the implementation of a Cultural Ambassador Programme which provides employers with the expertise and the training that can help support them and BME staff during formal processes and address discrimination in the workplace by identifying and challenging any cultural bias, unconscious bias and less favourable treatment.

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Health organisations, nursing staff, healthcare support staff and ultimately patients as we retain staff who are educated, supported and prepared to deliver safe, effective care.

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Professional, social and economic

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

Cultural Ambassador programme - In the West Midlands, where the programme was first implemented, there has been a reduction in the level of sanctions and investigations involving BME staff. In addition, the organisation has seen reductions in sickness absence. The programme, shortlisted for a national award, is now being rolled out nationwide.

Supporting nursing revalidation to ensure retention of nurses in the UK workforce – The NMC have commissioned Ipsos Mori to carry out a 3 year evaluation of the impact of revalidation on the nursing workforce and report no further losses to the nursing register than they would normally see in certain groups. The communications about the revalidation requirements have been effective and the guidance information is being widely used by registrants.

Registrants who have recently revalidated generally felt that they had all the support they needed and were supported through the revalidation process. Registrants also feel better prepared as they approach revalidation

https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/annual_reports_and_accounts/revalidationreports/ipsos-mori-revalidation-evaluation-report-year-2.pdf

The RCN Leadership programmes are all evaluated well by the staff attending who report a rise in confidence and competence to address leadership effectively in their organisations.

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

The RCN programmes are focussed at both local, regional and national level.

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

No they were not referenced in this work

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Accreditation

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

Royal College of Nursing staff administer the process, using the expertise of nurses/nurse educators in the peer review of applications for Accreditation.

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being

Target: reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Target: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3. Describe your policy or project.

RCN Accreditation attracts training providers from a wide range of healthcare settings, including pharmaceutical companies, training companies, NHS organisations, charities and higher education institutions. All accredited programmes go through a rigorous assessment process to ensure they meet the RCN's Quality Standards, i.e. they are congruent with RCN Policy, including RCN Principles of Nursing Practice, up-to-date, evidence-based, and fit for purpose and safe practice.

We accredit over 200 programmes annually on a wide range of topics, including cancer, diabetes, mental health, treatment of Hepatitis C among substance users and managing healthcare waste.

Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

- *Nurses and healthcare assistants who benefit from attending events of the highest quality. Nurses can use attendance at RCN-accredited events as evidence for their revalidation.*
- *Patients and service users who benefit from being cared for by nursing professionals with up-to-date knowledge and skills.*
- *Employers and organisations who benefit from RCN expertise to improve their learning and development initiatives.*

4. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Social and environmental

5. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

A large number of applicants reapply at the end of their accreditation term. At this point they are asked to submit evaluation summaries to show how they have used feedback to improve their training.

6. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

National, although we are investigating the feasibility of working at an international level.

7. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

No

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**Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable
Development Goals**

Name of policy or project.

RCN Advanced Level Nursing Practice Credentialing (ALNP)

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

RCN led and delivered – numerous stakeholders for different elements of the programme.

Stakeholders include:

*Health Education England (HEE)
Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Department of Health
Medical Royal Colleges
NHS England Director of Nursing
NHS Improvement Director of Nursing
Care Quality Commission (CQC)
Public Health Directors of Nursing
Accredited Universities
Patients
Public*

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being, and potentially the targets below:

Reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3. Describe your policy or project.

RCN ALNP credentialing was launch in May 2017 and is focussed on recognised advanced level practice, for the individual practicing at this level, the employer and patients and the public. It assesses nurses ability to practice at this level (masters level) through assessment of their qualifications, experience and competence and can be used as a kite mark for the individual applicant or a quality assurance

process for the employer/organisation. It is aligned to the four pillars of advanced practice and is open to across the four fields; Adult, Child, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities. Advanced nurse practitioners (ANPs) can be found across a whole range of settings from acute to community, working with a wide range of groups. This includes for example homeless hospital discharge ANPs

Advanced nurse practitioners work across a whole range of settings from acute to community running city outreach programmes. They not only deal with alcohol and substance misuse, but tie discharge from one hospital to admission into another to ensure medication and treatment is safe and effective. All ANPs that are credentialed will have prescribing powers and either level 6 or 7 health assessment qualifications.

ALNP credentialling drives up standards of practice and focusses on nursing as a continuously improving profession and high quality service, and also increases public confidence and assurance

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Individual nurses working at an advanced level

Employers

Patients

Public

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Economic – ANP cost and benefit

Social – community wellbeing

Political – multi-professional team equivalency

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

Four country UK wide perspective

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

Promoted through the RCN main social media accounts, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Video describing the project and the benefits to applicants on YouTube -

<https://youtu.be/8nnijTU8ZK8>

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Strategic research alliance

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

*Royal College of Nursing
University of Sheffield*

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has embarked on a five year research strategic alliance (2018-2022) with the School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Sheffield.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/research-and-innovation/research-alliance-with-university-of-sheffield>

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/snm/partnerships>

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

*SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing
SDG 4. Quality education*

3. Describe your policy or project.

The core objectives of the research strategic alliance are as follows:

- *To produce excellent international quality research and evidence reviews that will inform national and international nursing and health practice and policy, thus benefitting patients, families, health professionals and health outcomes;*
- *To disseminate and share research findings to inform developments in education, practice and policy designed to improve nursing and health care;*
- *To enhance public and user awareness of nursing issues;*
- *To work alongside users, carers and stakeholders to ensure that the activities are significant, meaningful and timely;*
- *To utilise research to inform nursing educational programmes.*

Current examples include:

Staffing for safe and effective care

To conduct a scoping review of existing literature to examine the quantity and distribution of evidence on skill mix variations and interventions in nursing, seeking to

understand the impact of these on patient safety outcomes, and to characterise types of skill mix intervention and the contexts of implementation where safety outcomes have been demonstrated.

To conduct a literature review to establish what the existing evidence is on the economic consequences of unsafe or ineffective staffing.

Continuing professional development

To identify the need for and undertake research exploring CPD requirements and access for nursing (taking into account recent, current and pending education policy, commissioning and delivery contexts). To identify the implications of the research for the nursing and healthcare workforce for the future.

Nursing associate (NA) cohort study

To develop a nursing associate research cohort as a facility to conduct longitudinal, observational and qualitative research on nursing associates training and work. The NA cohort will capture where NA are being trained, their training expectations and experiences, their post training work / career experience and pathways. The aim is to examine some underpinning policy assumptions regarding the introduction of NA.

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Patients, families, health professionals

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Social, political, economic

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

The research that is being conducted will be disseminated via a mixture of peer-review journals, research policy briefings, conference presentations and campaigns. Other outputs include:

- *A consensus development conference, "Promoting access to quality nursing care"*
- *Capacity building (PhDs): To provide PhD opportunities to nurses who want to develop a clinical academic career. Outputs will include successful PhD completion and published evidence.*
- *Capacity building (scholarships): To provide, through a programme of clinical research scholarships, research capacity building opportunities for a cohort of nurses working in clinical practice, who have an interest in a clinical academic career. To develop a number of research outputs aligned to the research conducted.*
- *Capacity building (seminar series): To conduct a seminar series to share and develop evidence on topics relevant to the Strategic Research Alliance with an aim to generate outputs, including briefing papers and research applications.*

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

All three

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

No, but our work is informed by international campaigns such as Nursing Now (<https://www.nursingnow.org/>),

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) programme on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) focusing on the prevention of infection

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

RCN led with engagement from:

RCN members – UK wide

NHS and non- NHS stakeholders

Public Health England (PHE)

United States senior nurses working in AMR

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

European network to promote infection prevention for patient safety (EUNETIPS) – this is a multi-professional network for organisations working in or with a specific remit for IPC in their role. <http://www.eunetips.eu/>

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project contributing to? A full list can be found here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing

Target: strengthen capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

3. Describe your policy or project.

This work programme includes a number of elements:

- *Clarification of RCN and nursing positions on AMR or specific practice issues*
- *Development and delivery of a pilot multi-professional systems leadership programme to support antimicrobial stewardship programmes*
- *Development and delivery of an RCN infection prevention and control (IPC) post-registration nursing education module – commenced November 2018.*
- *Information for RCN members/nurses and healthcare workers on clinical practice issues relating to the prevention of infection*
- *Specific projects relating to nursing practice areas examples include: aseptic technique, glove use, prevention of sharps injuries, infusion therapy practice, commissioning for IPC (England only)*

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Systems leaders (UK)

Nursing staff (if guidance followed/implemented)

- *Clarification of practice standards and expectations*
- *Skin awareness/protection through reduced glove use/improved skin checks*
- *Reduced sharps injuries*
- *Development of new education module on infection prevention and control (IPC)*

NHS

- *Improved quality of commissioning expectations for prevention of infection*
- *Reduced costs through improvement procurement decisions – e.g. selection of disinfectant wipes*
- *Reduced opportunities for transmission of infection in health and care settings*

Public

- *Clarification of practice standards and expectations*
- *Reduced opportunities for transmission of infection*
- *Protection of antibiotics through reduced use as a result of fewer healthcare associated infections*

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Professional, social, economic and political

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

Antimicrobial stewardship systems leadership programme was evaluated post delivery including using pre- and post-course questionnaires with improvements in understanding, influencing ability and collaboration.

AMR position paper (currently being updated) was the first position of its kind to set out the role and value of nursing staff within the AMR agenda

Glove use – RCN glove awareness week pilot demonstrated significant interest in this area of practice and its utilisation as a lever to improve hand hygiene. See here for example of impact

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/small-changes/success-stories/improving-hygiene-and-reducing-glove-use-go-hand-in-hand>

First cohort of IPC module has 19 participants (commenced November 2018) further information on the modules aims, objectives and outcomes can be found here

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/professional-services/rcn-ipc-module>

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

National /UK wide for AMR/IPC work

Glove awareness week is being promoted as an international event

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

Yes in IPC education module (within a PowerPoint presentation on day 1)

Yes – being included in revision of RCN AMR position statement

Yes for broader RCN IPC web pages

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) development of nurse student funding policy incentives for students in England.

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.
 - *We work closely with our members in all of our policy development. In this particular case we worked with our student members to understand what pressure students face and what policies would be best to incentivise people to study and support them while they do so.*
 - *We consulted with and shared our policy work with both the Department of Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock.*
 - *Other health stakeholders consulted include: other Royal Colleges, the Council of Deans of Health, various university groups, sector charities, other trade unions and Government departments.*

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

SDG 4 Quality Education

Target: ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocation and tertiary education, including university

3. Describe your policy or project.
 - *The UK is suffering from a problem with the supply of registered nurses needed to deliver safe and effective care, particularly through domestic routes. In England, funding reforms for nursing higher education courses has moved from a bursary based model, to one where students incur high levels of debt through loans for tuition and maintenance.*
 - *This has resulted in a significant drop the number of applicants, with a particularly large fall in students over 25 years of age. Nursing students have traditionally come from older and more diverse backgrounds than the rest of the tertiary student population, including women and those with dependent children.*
 - *As such, the large decrease in applications has had the effect of reducing equality of access for some sectors of society.*

- *In order to restore student numbers and ensure equality of participation, the RCN has worked to develop and cost policy options that are designed to provide a better financial package of support to students whilst they study, and ultimately help to incentivise students and restore student numbers to at least their pre-reform levels. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/royal-college-of-nursing/documents/publications/2018/november/pdf-007348.pdf>*
- *This project, called Fund our Future Nurses, and the RCN is calling on the Government to reinvest at least £1b per year back into nursing higher education in England. This money should be used to incentivise people to study, support them while they do so, and keep them in the workforce once they graduate through further incentives and continuing professional development.*
- *The project was launched with a student member led event at Parliament.*

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

- *Nursing students benefit as, if taken up, these policies would provide financial support to them while they are studying, that reduce or entirely remove the levels of debt the student would incur. This should ensure that fewer of them either leave university study prior to qualification and they health and care system will benefit from more people joining and staying once they graduate.*
- *Therefore it would be of particular benefit to those over 25 years of age or from less financially well off socio-economic backgrounds, who may have addition costs, dependencies and who may be more adverse to taking on additional debt.*
- *This has a run on effect for patient safety. Evidence shows patients are safer when more graduate nurses are working.*

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Social and economic

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

- *The project is designed to stimulate policy discussion. It is too early at this stage to quantify the benefits. However, the Government has publicly acknowledged the costed options which it has described as serious proposals.*
- *However, this project has been picked up in numerous media outlets and we have worked closely with Government agencies. This has included a roundtable discussion between our student members and the Department of Health and Social Care.*
-

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

This project is focused on education reforms in England

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

No this project did not actively use SDGs.

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project:

Modern Slavery and Trafficking: raising awareness among nurses and midwives

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

RCN led and developed

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

Goal 5 Gender Equality

Target: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

3. Describe your policy or project.

The programme of work includes the provision of information and resources to support nursing and midwifery staff to spot the signs of slavery and know what action to take. These include:

RCN Modern Slavery pocket guide

RCN Modern Slavery Wheel

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/modern-slavery>

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Nursing and midwifery staff and those at risk of modern slavery

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Social

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

10,000 pocket guides published. 5000 distributed at RCN Congress in 2017 to RCN members.

Distribution at International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) conference in Canada 2017

Pocket guide adopted and adapted by Lancashire policy force for use locally

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

UK wide

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

No

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Female Genital Mutilation

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

RCN led and developed a publication for RCN members in association with web based support as part of a package of resources in collaboration with:

- *Other Royal Colleges (as part of intercollegiate recommendations)*
- *Department of Health, national sexual health organisations and National Travel Health Network Centre (NaTHNAC) for travel health supplement*

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

Goal 5 Gender Equality

Target: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

3. Describe your policy or project.

The programme of work included RCN led and delivered resources for members – FGM: An RCN resource for nursing and midwifery practice with the following supplements:

FGM – RCN Travel health supplement

FGM – RCN travel health pathway

FGM – RCN sexual health supplement

FGM – RCN sexual health pathway

All RCN resources can be found here <https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/female-genital-mutilation/professional-resources>

The RCN also contributed to intercollegiate work for the development of intercollegiate recommendations for the identification, management and support of girls and women affected by FGM

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Nursing and midwifery staff and girls/women affected or at risk of modern slavery

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Social

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

Intercollegiate recommendations accepted by Government and implemented with subsequent embedding of the recommendations for:

- *A national data set*
- *National standards for mandatory reporting*
- *Education and training for nurses and midwives on FGM*
- *Media awareness and promotion of FGM*
- *Commissioning requirements*
- *Support/services for women affected*

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

UK wide

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

No

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Small Changes Big Differences campaign – procurement

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

RCN led and delivered – numerous stakeholders for different elements of the programme.

Stakeholders include:

RCN members for case studies - NHS Improvement (waste work and procurement)

Centre for Sustainable health (CSH)

NHS England and NHS Improvement via Sustainable Development Unit (SDU)

NHS England – Plastics reduction

Glove suppliers and healthcare providers for Glove Awareness work

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to? A full list can be found here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

SDG 13 – Climate Action

Target: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Target: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

3. Describe your policy or project.

RCN Small Changes was launched in March 2015 to highlight the benefits of engaging the nursing workforce in procurement decisions for everyday consumables used to deliver care by healthcare workers. The campaign focused on the need for quality and safety to drive procurement decisions and the inclusion in decision making of those who use the products to avoid waste. The savings identified were able to protect nursing posts at risk as a result of financial savings and reduce variability in products and therefore risks to patients.

See this link for an introduction to Small Changes and its potential impact

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/small-changes>

This link demonstrates the impact of Small Changes at one NHS Trust following its adoption and development in practice

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uecEnKKEo_U

Small Changes has expanded to include sustainability elements associated with procurement and the RCN is currently focusing on reduction of unnecessary glove use and unnecessary use of plastics in health and care delivery.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/glove-awareness>

An associated programme of work on healthcare waste has identified significant savings possible through better use of data on waste generated by hospitals

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-004108>

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Nursing staff

- *protection of nursing posts at risk as a result of cost improvement programmes*
- *skin awareness and protection through reduced glove use and improved skin checks*

NHS Trusts

- *better segregation of waste and reduced costs*

Environment

- *less clinical waste sent for incineration*
- *reduced gloves in healthcare waste streams*

Public

- *Better use of NHS money and reduced waste*

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Economic, social, political, environmental

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

See resources below:

This clip shares the impact that Small Changes can make through procurement and engagement of clinical staff in selection of consumables – it specifically identifies costs and the impact of protecting nursing posts

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uecEnKKEo_U

This article showcases work undertaken by a nurse leading procurement and evaluation of electrodes used by the NHS.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines/bulletin/2018/february/small-changes-big-differences>

This video showcases how Small Changes was adopted and expanded to make improvements, cost savings and better use of resources in one NHS Trust

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDmcA7aOzgY>

This case study demonstrates the impact of reducing unnecessary use of gloves on one NHS Trust.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/small-changes/success-stories/improving-hygiene-and-reducing-glove-use-go-hand-in-hand>

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

National /UK wide for small changes and waste work.

Glove awareness week is being promoted as an international event

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

Not publically but will be included in the review of resources in 2019

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/personal-information-charter>.

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Contribute to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Name of policy or project.

Improving air quality through the UK Health & Climate Change Alliance

1. Name of organisations and partners delivering the policy or project. Tell us how you have worked together.

The UK Health & Climate Change Alliance (UKHACC) brings together 16 medical royal colleges and health trade unions led this work. A full list of members can be found here: <http://www.ukhealthalliance.org/members/>

2. Which specific Sustainable Development Goal and target/s is your project is contributing to?

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing

Target: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

SDG 13: Climate Action

Target: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

3. Describe your policy or project.

In 2016 the UKHACC published an evidence report called 'A Breath of Fresh Air' which made the case for much more integrated strategies to address air pollution and climate change (available here: <http://www.ukhealthalliance.org/report-breath-fresh-air/>).

This report also outlined six key steps that the UK Government and the UK health sector should take to improve air quality and tackle climate change in a coherent way. With our input and support, the alliance has worked to lobby the UK Government to action these recommendations by:

- *co-ordinating a response from across its membership to the Government's draft clean air strategy in England;*
- *organising several roundtable events with politicians and civil servants responsible for environmental and educational policy. These have allowed the RCN to make the case that nurses need better support and the opportunity to shape how best to educate the public about the importance of clean air, and what preventative measures they can take to minimise harm;*
- *pro-actively participating in targeted public events, such as the 2018 Clean Air Day in Glasgow. Here, the RCN provided senior-level speakers which brought together senior health representatives, politicians and the media to discuss the*

impact of air pollution on health and ramp up pressure for action; and

- *developing new evidence-based materials which include practical case studies – some of which were provided by the RCN. These have been designed for the public, health professionals and politicians on what practical steps can be taken at an organisational, local and national level to reduce air pollution at low financial cost. These materials can be accessed here:
<http://www.ukhealthalliance.org/resources/>*

In 2019 the RCN will be supporting the alliance to broaden its focus to policy issues beyond air quality, including: single-use plastics reduction and making the UK a zero carbon economy.

4. Who is benefitting from your policy or project?

Patients, nurses and other health professionals.

5. What impact has your policy or project had? For example, is it social or environmental?

Environmental and political

6. What evidence do you have to demonstrate the impact and outcome of your policy or project? (Please use statistics and name data sources where possible)

None as yet.

7. Is the focus of your project international, national or local?

The alliance is a UK-wide organisation. At present a lot of its activity has been England-focused but there are plans to broaden this going forward.

8. Did you use the Sustainable Development Goals to help communicate your project? Did you promote it on social media? Please send us links if so.

Not directly. However, the UKHACC report, 'A Breath of Fresh Air' does reference the 2016 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's report on air pollution which found that air pollution control costs are generally significantly lower than the costs of damage to health and the environment.

9. Please share your contact details in case we have any further questions. Information will be handled in line with the Department for International Development's Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notice

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