



Council

Date of Meeting:	3 December 2015
Title of Paper:	President's Report to Council
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	Cecilia Anim
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Throughout this reporting period I trust you have all been receiving Janet's weekly Council Update email in which myself, Michael and Rod all now contribute to should we have items to report on. Therefore my reports to Council for this period onwards will be the highlights of key and important events that I feel summarises the variety and breadth of my work during the reporting period.

20 August

I visited The State Hospital in Scotland (TSH). TSH is one of four high- secure hospitals in the UK and is part of NHS Scotland and employs 700 staff multidisciplinary teams including nurses and health care support workers. It provides 140 high secure beds for male patients including 12 beds specifically for patients with learning disability. TSH is unique in the sense that it's an environment that provides care for very ill detained patients offering protection for them and the public as well as staff.

Having gone through an airport type security we met with the director of nursing, senior nurses, the medical director as well as the Chair and Chief Executive. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to observe compassionate and dignified care in this environment which underlines the importance of the teamwork and trust in delivering patient care.

25 August

I travelled to Preston to visit UCLAN and to receive a cheque for the RCN Foundation. The monies were once again raised by the pre-registration students through various fund raising activities since Nurses Day. I was very impressed by the vision of the student nurses to raise funds to support the work of the foundation. A cheque of £650 was received on behalf of the foundation presented to me by their CEO.

Following lunch I met with newly qualified children nurses and had an open discussion to share their experiences and their views on what they see as the future of nursing. They were positive about their role and valued the training they have had. The whole experience was inspirational and therapeutic for them and myself.

13 September

I returned from New York earlier this week after receiving an African Women of Excellence award. Hosted by the African Union and the Diasporas African Forum, it marked an interesting collaboration with UN Women. This award celebrates and recognises the contribution of African Women or women of African descent have made to political, social and economic independence and takes place during the 70th session of UN General Assembly. It marked a useful opportunity to underline the importance of nursing and nurses globally and the uniqueness of the role of the RCN in promoting gender equality as well as our international work and partnerships such as ZUNO. I was particularly impressed by the UN Campaign which clearly links gender equality to human rights issues

16 September

Along with Janet I attended the NHS Providers annual lecture on Wednesday and listened to Sir David Nicholson who spoke about the range of difficulties facing the NHS. He underlined the need for transparency, consistency and purpose to maintain trust in the system. He also felt that it was important that system leaders be nurtured and supported in their roles.

2 October

I attended the International Veterans conference in Cumbria which highlighted to a greater degree the health needs of veterans and their families. The event sought to underline and find ways to address the wide range of health inequalities faced by this group and find solutions to create a greater sense of consistency in the services provided. It was clear that health professionals need to be well-informed and properly resourced in order to support this particular population.

5 & 6 October

I attended the Conservative party conference in Manchester and participated in a number of fringe meetings. Some of the key themes that emerged throughout these events were focussed on workforce issues such as staffing levels, patient safety as well as tackling health inequalities and supporting the work of specialist nurses. Collaborative working between and within the health professions was also flagged.

8 & 9 October

I attended the Joint Reps conference in Belfast. It is so rare that we get the chance to spend time with our reps so these opportunities to come together, to network, to share and to learn are incredibly valuable. I also had the honour of being invited to give the welcome speech at the dinner on Thursday night. A thoroughly enjoyable and insightful conference overall.

14 October

I attended the Joint County Conference for Cambridgeshire and Essex. During this recent period I have given keynote speeches at two other branch events (Milton Keynes and West Kent and Canterbury). These events provided excellent opportunities to learn more about the experiences of RCN members on the frontline. Our members were clear in articulating the challenges that they continue to face in the workplace and also clear about the impact that the unrelenting pressure has on their own health and wellbeing as well as the attendant impact on patient care.

22 & 23 October

The RCN hosted the EFN General Assembly. I think overall it was successful with the vision of enhancing nursing issues in the European Union. The delegates enjoyed being in our HQ. My sincere thanks to all staff who helped make this happen.

24 October

I was invited to represent the RCN at a Black History Month event organised by the Bryant Street Methodist Church in Stratford and the community Education project. The event was held in honour of Mary Seacole. The occasion was a memorable one as it also highlighted the efforts of Dr Martin Luther King civil rights campaigner. They spoke highly of the efforts of The RCN in promoting race equality and the wider equalities agenda. It is heartening that our work is so widely recognised beyond the immediate healthcare sector.

3 November

I met with Wendy Irwin to get an update on 'Is that discrimination?'. A project that is being carried out at UCLH. More than 100 employees, primarily team leaders and employee relations staff have undertaken the development sessions and the feedback from the organisation is overwhelmingly positive. Two further sessions are planned and Wendy is due to work with the entire staff side group to enhance their ability to use the tools of partnership to promote and embed equality and inclusion.

5 November

I attended the Field of Remembrance service at Westminster Abbey with Roy Tomlinson where we remembered our fallen nurses. It was certainly a very moving occasion for us all. This was then followed by a ceremony of Remembrance in Cowdray Hall in the evening. I was privileged to be able to provide a welcoming speech and closed the event. My thanks go to the events team for their unflappable professionalism and to the Defence Nurses Forum.

12 November

I attended the Nursing Times awards along with fellow Council Members and Janet Davies. It was a celebratory event where the focus was on nursing innovations and commitment to the best patient outcomes. I had the honour to award the RCN sponsored 'Mental Health Nursing' award to the winner Bradford District Care Foundation Trust, First Response Service.

20 November

I travelled to Stoke on Trent to visit Royal Stoke University Hospital to meet the safety project team on the work being done in the area of domestic abuse and violence using the holistic approach. I am delighted to have met with Mandy Burston who won the Nursing Standard Nurse of the year award for innovation in practice. Mandy is keen to develop national guidance about domestic abuse and violence through her project work. This event was attended by the MP for North Staffordshire and deputy police commissioner West Midlands.