



Council

Date of meeting:	23 April 2015
Title of Paper:	Report from the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the RCN Foundation
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	Jane Clarke, RCN Director of Governance Support
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. The Board of Trustees is next meeting on 14 April. The key items on our Agenda include the 2014 Annual Report and Accounts which is on your agenda this week and a report on the implementation of the new CRM system. We will also be finalising our new project grant programme which will focus on the training and development of nursing staff in care homes and will have an update on plans for the RCN/RCNF Joint Referral and Assessment Centre.
2. I attended the RCN Audit Committee for the first time on 8 April 2015 to present the Foundation Report and Accounts and discuss the 2014 Foundation Internal Audit.
3. The Chair of Council and I are now meeting regularly. I am finding these meetings very useful and I believe they have already helped us to approach issues in a different way.
4. As a result of our first meeting we set up a RCN/RCNF Joint working group to discuss in more detail how the two organisations work and support each other. The aim of these meetings is to help ensure there was a strong honest working relationship between our two organisations going forward and that any issues or concerns can be discussed openly and resolved. We will be meeting for the second

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time in May when we will be starting to review the Memorandum of Agreement and the new facilities agreement.

5. The decision Council took in March to agree to advertise for an RCN member with experience of managing grants and assessing project and research grant applications to fill the vacancy for an RCN Appointed Trustee was very well received by the Board of trustees and will help us to support our ambitious work programme over the coming year.
6. I have also had a meeting with Cecilia Anim who I am delighted has agreed to continue to support the Foundation through the President's Charity. We have agreed that if she is able to raise £5,000 the RCN Foundation will match fund and run a specific bursary in 2016 for nurses carrying out humanitarian war zones. If the amounts raised are small we have agreed that the funding will go towards one of our existing travel scholarships for nursing in a war zone.
7. You will be aware that Dinah Cox left us at the end of October last year. The Head of Foundation role has been advertised and we are hoping that we will have a new Head in place after the summer.

Robert Sowney
Chair of the Board of Trustees
RCN Foundation