



Royal College of Nursing  
Shaping nursing since 1916

## Council Report

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>28 April 2016</b>
<b>Title of Paper:</b>	<b>Deputy President's Activities Report</b>
<b>Appendices:</b>	
<b>Presented by:</b>	<b>Professor Rod Thomson FRCN, Deputy President</b>
<b>Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b>	

1. Throughout this reporting period I trust you have all been receiving Janet's weekly Council Update email in which Cecilia, Michael and I all contribute should we have items to report on. Therefore my report to Council is the highlights of key and important events that I feel summarises the variety of my work during the reporting period.

### 7-11 December 2015

2. Following an approach by members, this week I worked with Josie Irwin and her colleagues regarding a concern raised by members in the significant delays in students receiving their DBS clearances. Such delays have caused students to be unable to take up posts that have been offered to them. Such delays have the potential to cause financial hardship to students.
3. I have also had an article published in Nursing Standard highlighting the potential risks to nurses and nursing related services as a result of the Chancellor's proposal to make further cuts to the public health

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grant at a time when the Chief Medical Officer for England is expressing grave concern regarding the high levels of obesity in women.

### 19 January 2016

4. This week, along with the President Cecilia Anim, I took part in the RCN's International Committee. The Agenda include a range of topics including our current and potential international alliances; TTIP and Congress 2016. A particular focus of the meeting was a discussion on 'The Future Shape of the RCN's International Work'.
5. An on-going piece of work with officers and members relates to Children's services. In the West Midlands members have raised concern regarding the out sourcing of school nursing services to a non NHS provider and the impact on nursing terms and conditions. As the Department of Health is due to announce significant cuts to the Public Health Grant I am working with staff from the Nursing and Communication Departments on the RCN response. The Treasury indicated in the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn that the scale of the cuts was likely to be around 8.5%.

### 25 - 29 January 2016

6. This week I had been in contact with our Communications and Parliamentary Teams regarding arranging a meeting with the Children's Minister to discuss a range of children's and young people's health issues that are of concern to RCN members.
7. I also took part in the Public Health England working group on Rural Health Inequalities. PHE has recognised that the current tools used to assess deprivation and health inequalities do not adequately identify the needs of rural communities. One of the outcomes of the work to date is the recognition of the need to include a sparsity factor in the funding formula used for health visiting in view of the travel times involved.
8. In support of the RCN's campaign regarding student bursaries I have been providing some support to Shropshire based students who are organising some local promotional events.

### 8-12 February 2016

9. I worked with Paul Vaughan and his team in the West Midlands regarding preparing a briefing or training session for officers relating to the current developments in local government and the implications for nursing. We have also discussed the implications for school nursing and health visiting within the region from the predicted 8-10% cuts to the public health grant.

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10. I continue to work with Jane Hughes and her team regarding arranging an opportunity to lobby the Children's Minister on a range of child health inequalities matters following last year's Congress debate.

### 15 – 19 February 2016

11. A focus for me this week is the adverse impact on a range of health services of the cuts in the public health grant in England. The Treasury has ordered a cut in the grant of almost 10% for 2016/17, with further cuts planned for the rest of this Parliament. I have been lobbying Duncan Selbie, the CEO of Public Health England to highlight the risk to services such as school nursing and health visiting.
12. The RCN Awards Committee met this week and along with the other members of the committee I had difficult decisions to make regarding Fellowships and Awards of Merit. The standard and number of nominations were high this year, which was good to see, however it did give committee members some tough choices to make.

### 22 February 2016

13. This week my focus was on the Business Committee. It was a warm welcome to the new members of the Business Committee this week and its new Chair Dave Dawes. We had a very heavy agenda to work through this week and credit to the new members of the committee for engaging in the complex discussions on RCN finances and business operations.

### 1 March 2016

14. I attended a seminar at the Royal College of Surgeons at which Dr Margaret Chan the Director General of the World Health Organisation was the keynote speaker. Dr Chan's presentation covered a wide range of topics and had a particular focus on Zika virus as she had just returned from Brazil.

### 4 March 2016

15. I had a telephone discussion with Dr Andrew Furber, the President of the Association of Directors of Public Health to discuss the potential adverse consequences for nursing following the cuts to the Public Health Grant in England. We have agreed to explore ways in which the Association and the RCN can work together on this issue. I am currently working with Helen Donovan, the College's Public Health Advisor and Fiona Smith, our Children and Young People's Advisor on this issue and last year's Congress agenda item on Childhood Health Inequalities

### 8-12 March 2016

16. Since my last update I have been working with Paul Vaughan and his team in the West Midlands regarding preparing a briefing or training session for officers relating to the current developments in local government and the implications for nursing. We have also discussed the implications for school nursing and health visiting within the region from the predicted 8-10% cuts to the public health grant.
17. I continued to work with Jane Hughes regarding arranging an opportunity to lobby the Children's Minister Edward Timpson on a range of child health inequalities matters following last year's Congress debate.

### 14 March 2016

18. I held a teleconference with Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England and Dr Andrew Furber, the President of the Association of Directors of Public Health to discuss the adverse impact of the cuts to the public health grant on nursing services.

### 15 March 2016

19. Tracey Budding and I represented the RCN at the Medical Royal Colleges Presidential Dinner held at BMA House. This provided us with an opportunity to network and lobby with elected members of these colleges.

### 16 March 2016

20. I participated in the NPPC. The committee's wide ranging included an induction session for new council members; a review of our priorities; mentorship; credentialing and accreditation; nursing associate and student bursaries; public health and the forthcoming assembly and parliamentary elections. Clearly NPPC members have a busy year in front of us.

### 22 March

21. I took part in the Council Executive Team meeting via teleconference. As ever our agenda covered a wide range of nursing and health issues.
22. As part of the RCN Centenary I have been working with our President Cecilia Anim and Staff to respond to requests from Branches and other organisations to support events that they plan to celebrate this great occasion. I will provide updates of these events in subsequent reports to Council.