



Royal College of Nursing
Shaping nursing since 1916

Council

Date of meeting:	28 April 2016
Title of Paper:	RCN Health Practitioners Committee
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	Brenda McDonald, Chair of HP Committee
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Report of the meeting held on 15 and 16 December 2015

1. The first day of our meeting was a development session where we took part in a learning game on the Care Certificate. We also spent time discussing our plans for Congress 2016 and our ideas for ensuring HCAs had a positive and inclusive week.
2. The formal part of the meeting began with a review of our terms of reference and our priorities for 2016. We agreed that the professional agenda for HCAs was really important and that we would continue to explore how we could involve more HCA members in the forum work.
3. We discussed how our visibility locally could be improved and we agreed that programme of country and regional events and visits by Committee members to local workplaces would be well received.
4. We also agreed that it was important to continue to highlight the important role HCAs play in the nursing team and we considered a number of ideas of how we could tie this into the centenary celebrations.

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5. Theresa Fyffe, lead for the Access to member information project, updated us on progress with this important project. The HCA/AP network which now stands at over 700 members will certainly benefit from this important work.
6. We had a discussion about the HCA membership offer in advance of the country and regional staff leads being invited to our April meeting. We heard that the marketing and business development team will continue to work closely with us to understand the key issues for HCAs in order to develop the membership offer appropriately, and to target messages and information.
7. We noted that the English Management team had committed to running at least one event per year in each of the English regions and we will be discussing these events with the regional staff leads at the meeting in April.
8. We had an update on all the new marketing materials that have been produced to help with HCA recruitment and would like to encourage Council, Board and Committee members to use the new materials. They can be ordered from RCN Direct and include application forms, posters, leaflets and publications.
9. Dame Donna Kinnair, newly appointed RCN Director of Nursing, then updated us on the professional issues of the college and her personal vision and goals. She explained that future work would focus on making practice safer and promoting standards for all the nursing team and was very keen to engage our committee in this work.
10. We also received updates on key employment issues including NHS pay, and on the RCN's new website.
11. Finally we had a discussion on the latest discussions on the government's proposal for a nursing associate role in England.