



Royal College of Nursing
Shaping nursing since 1916

Council

Date of meeting:	28 April 2016
Title of Paper:	RCN President's report to Council
Appendices:	Appendix A, President's diary Dec 2015 – April 2016
Presented by:	Cecilia Anim, RCN President
Is a decision required? No <input type="checkbox"/>	

1. Throughout this period, the majority of my visits have taken me to the many and diverse contexts where frontline care is delivered from hospices in rural areas to tackling gang violence in urban areas. My visits have underlined a number of central themes that characterise the nursing experience. The members I visited expressed their concerns about mounting work pressures and demands, precarious staffing levels, lack of resources and time to deliver appropriate care and patients who needs were rising in complexity and intensity.
2. These concerns were articulated by front line staff and echoed by managers at all levels and across the NHS and the independent sectors. Managers also spoke to me of ongoing difficulties with recruitment and retention, staff morale and the impact of cuts on care.
3. The temperature in the work place is at boiling point in some instances creating burn out for members and other professionals. It is critical therefore, that our work to support the wellbeing of nurses and healthcare support workers in the workplace across both the NHS and independent sectors remains central.

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4. The most positive aspects of these visits was being able to listen to members and signposting them to the numerous resources available to them through their RCN membership from local activists, offices and the websites.
5. As a result of these visits I am privileged to have learned a great deal from our members through their questions and their expectations of the college.
6. My principle message remains; that we are all part of a united and powerful RCN and collectively we all have a stake in ensuring that the voice and influence of nursing is heard.
7. It has also been useful to learn more about the work of other agencies such as Mencap, it was particularly exciting to help broker collaborative working.
8. I also continued to support our international work with our national nursing associations and I attended the recent CNMF conference and highlighted the importance of sharing good practice and learning from each other.
9. Our Centenary celebrations have also been very positive amongst members. Amongst my personal highlights for me was the Speakers House event and the visit to the Marie Curie Hospital on the day of our centenary.
10. I am also looking forward to other visits throughout the year, I will be visiting Guernsey and a number of other places to mark our centenary.
11. I never cease to be awed at the tenacity and expertise displayed by RCN members in continuing to deliver outstanding patient care despite the mounting challenges around them.