

Agenda Item 11.4.2



Royal College of Nursing
Shaping nursing since 1916

Council

Date of Meeting:	08 December 2016
Title of Paper:	Report Back from the Health Practitioners Committee
Appendices:	None
Presented By:	Brian Murphy, Chair
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. The HP Committee met on 25 August 2016.

Apprenticeships and Nursing Associates

2. We started the meeting with a presentation on the proposed new apprenticeship model and new nursing associate role and have raised some concerns in relation to quality assurance and ensuring consistency across employers in relation to apprenticeship standards.
3. We believe that while there are benefits to there being more than one route into nursing, the way the changes are implemented will be key to its success.

The RCN's Professional Offer to HCAs

4. We then discussed the RCN's professional offer to HCAs.
5. Our discussion focussed on how we might encourage more HCAs to attend Congress by better demonstrating the benefits of attending Congress to employers.

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6. Additionally, we discussed ways of delivering CPD for HP members other than at Congress and the feasibility of the Committee organising fringes in the future. Going forward we are aiming to work with the RCN's country and regional learning and development leads to develop a UK wide programme of HP-specific events.

Adult Social Care Funding and NHS Trusts Moving into the Home Care Market

7. We received a presentation on the issues facing HP members in adult social care, primarily in England (but with relevance to the rest of the UK) and we discussed the implications for HPs of these changes.

Congress 2016

8. We reviewed arrangements for Congress 2016 and any improvements required for 2017.
9. Given the low number of HCAs who registered to attend Congress this year, we will be submitting a paper to all country and regional Board meetings requesting that money is ring-fenced to fund at least one HP member from each country/ region to attend Congress 2017.
10. Jane Denton, Fellows Convenor, also joined our meeting to share feedback from our joint fringe event with the Fellows on 'the role of health care support workers in the nursing team' and we discussed how to take this work forward as well as how the Fellows could become more involved with the work of the Committee more generally.
11. Following the success of the recent Fellows public lecture, we have agreed that we should also consider ideas for a debate relevant to HCAs as part of the 2017 public lecture series organised through the RCN Library and Heritage Centre.
12. Under this item, the Committee requested that the RCN does not use "HP" to describe HCA members in marketing and communications.

Health Practitioner Network

13. We received an update on progress with the roll-out of the Member Communication Centre and how this will help us communicate with our members locally and establish our country or regional networks.

The Committee next meets on 1 December 2016.