



## RCN Council

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>08 December 2016</b>
<b>Title of Paper:</b>	<b>Report from the President</b>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Presented by:</b>	<b>Cecilia Anim</b>
<b>Is a decision required? <u>No</u></b>	

### Overview of reporting period 25 July 2016 to 2 December 2016

It is my pleasure to present my Council report for covering the last three months.

- 1 Naturally, this has continued to be a particularly busy period as a result of the centenary celebrations. There are a number of other highlights that I am particularly pleased with.
- 2 Firstly, I am delighted at the progress made on pulling together the Equality and Inclusion strategy as well as the work done on building a comprehensive domestic abuse and violence resource for our members.
- 3 At the end of July, I visited Cardiff to celebrate the granting of Royal Assent to the pivotal Staffing Levels Act. This was a superb event which marked yet another high point for RCN Wales and their ground breaking work on behalf of nursing and patients.
- 4 Early August saw me visiting the Isle of Wight to speak to the Executive Director of Nursing, Alan Sheward. We discussed a number of areas of around district nursing and it was fascinating to

## Agenda Item 11.9

speak to the staff in that area and learn more about the challenges that they face on a daily basis. It was also a useful opportunity to underline. This visit has certainly strengthened my view that we need to engage much more meaningfully with our members and highlight precisely the value and range of services and support that we offer.

- 5 On returning from annual leave towards the middle of September, I participated in a service at York Minister which was then followed by participating in the Pride of Britain judging panel. Later on that month, I participated in the Sunderland leg of the centenary walk and I am delighted to report that I have just about recovered from that exertion!
- 6 Towards the end of September, I went up to the Joint Reps Conference in Cardiff. This was a great event and I found it particularly useful to network with other accredited representatives and to understand the issues that they are facing in supporting our members in the workplace.
- 7 During October in attending the South East region's student conference, I was impressed by the support that is provided by the regional team and the level of political astuteness shown by the students.
- 8 I also attended the Edith Cavell commemorative wreath laying ceremony and had cause to use my nursing skills to attend to an individual who had taken ill in the street!
- 9 On the 20<sup>th</sup> October I travelled to Madrid for the European Federation of Nurses General Assembly meeting. The meeting was important for a number of reasons. Firstly, it provided a much-needed platform to discuss regulatory concerns and explore the recommendations that were generated by an earlier meeting of the European regulatory bodies. Also on the agenda was the European competency framework for both specialist nurses and association practitioners. There was also a detailed discussion on the transposition of the EFN workforce matrix into the UK context. In addition, concerns were also raised about the way forward following the EU referendum vote and assurances were given about the continuing need to maintain effective and productive working relationships.
- 10 Later on in October, I gave a speech at the RCN in Wales Research Chair inaugural lecture and at the end of the month I provided the welcome to the Chief Nursing Officer for England's Black and Minority Ethnic Strategic Advisory Group. This event focussed on the theme of nurse enterprise and innovation. We heard from Professor Jaideep Prabhu from Cambridge University and author of the award-winning 'Frugal Innovation' as well as learning about

## Agenda Item 11.9

creating social enterprise from the School of Social Entrepreneurship.

- 11 During early November, I visited the East Midlands region and joined their centenary celebrations. I also attended the Ghana International Welfare Association, which is a diaspora nursing association. I was impressed with their energy, vision and high levels of engagement with their membership. The session focussed on the importance of leadership and the importance of engagement with the RCN. I spoke about the importance of working with the RCN and being more proactive with membership structures. It is important that the RCN seek out and strengthen links with diaspora nursing networks in the UK.
- 12 I was also pleased to attend the Scotland activist event and found it really useful to understand more the experiences of accredited representatives in Scotland. That was followed by a visit to the Epilepsy Society to learn more about their innovative and awareness-raising work in this area. In particular, I was impressed by their research on disease management and was lucky enough to have a tutorial on reading MRI scans.
- 13 Later on in November, I again visited Wales to attend the Welsh Nurse of the Year award, this event is always inspirational and informative. Following my visit to Wales, I made my way to Newcastle to visit a Marie Curie site. This was then followed by participating in the Northern region centenary event which brought both nursing students and retired nurses together. It was great to witness the different generations of nursing and observing how they learned from each other.
- 14 On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, I attended the Sarah Swift wreath laying service, this was an important event which provided scope to honour the memory and legacy of one of our founding members. It also provided a great opportunity to share as well as celebrating with the local community precisely the legacy that she has left. I learned much about her life and hope that the local branch continue to celebrate her legacy beyond the centenary.

## Agenda Item 11.9

- 15 At the time of writing this report, I am looking forward immensely to the centenary conference which represents the culmination of many months of planning and hard work. It underlines the truly global nature of nursing and our own world-class ambitions for the profession and for nurses. However, it remains a source of significant challenge to Council to provide a strategic steer on the best ways to meaningfully engage with our members in the future. During the visits I have undertaken, I cannot fail to be moved by the dedication that our members display to the art and science of nursing and to delivering outstanding care in the most challenging of circumstances. It is my observation that our member's expectations are complex and mixed and we need to do more to find new ways to increase our ability to communicate and share our work on their behalf with them as a matter of urgency.