



Royal College of Nursing
Shaping nursing since 1916

Council

Date of Meeting:	21 July 2016
Title of Paper:	Report from the Nursing Practice and Policy Committee (NPPC)
Presented by:	Janet Marsden, Joint Chair
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. NPPC met on 7 July 2016.

Apprenticeships and Nursing Associates

2. We began the meeting by receiving an overview of the proposed new apprenticeship model and the new nursing associate role and the Chief Executive & General Secretary updated us on the very important work she was doing with the NMC and the Council of Deans on the Nurse in 2020.
3. Whilst recognising the benefits of there being more than one route into nursing, we remain concerned that the government is looking at an apprenticeship route for all public sector roles which is not appropriate for nursing. The proposals have not been sufficiently thought through and there is a mismatch of ideas.
4. We also voiced our concerns about the language being used. Nursing is a profession not an occupation and a profession is educated not trained.
5. We discussed the role of the NMC in validating any new education provision and the safeguards this provides

Practice Based Education

6. We then received an update on work relating to practice based education, with a focus on the RCN hosted practice based education summit held in April 2016. NPPC noted the outcome of the summit and we support continued plans to progress this work.

Advanced Practice Credentialing

7. We discussed progress with the RCNs work on Advanced Practice Credentialing and the process to design an operating model for this.
8. We also had a useful discussion on the definition of an advanced practitioner.

Health Visiting Workforce

9. The RCN's activity around potential cuts to health visitor numbers was shared with us and we discussed future opportunities for action and influence in this vital area.

Student Bursary Consultation Update

10. We were updated on ongoing lobbying work and noted that an Early Day Motion regarding student nurse bursaries had been tabled in Parliament calling on *“those in the nation's leadership to listen to the overwhelming views of the Royal College of Nursing and 20 other healthcare trade unions, charities and professional colleges to halt its plans for these changes in the interests of the service and nation”*.

Nursing Practice and Policy Department and RCN Consultancy Services Leadership Development

11. We received an update on the RCN's leadership development offer being developed by the RCN Nursing Department and delivered through the RCN Consultancy Service.

EU Referendum

12. We asked to be actively involved in the work to address the implications for the profession of the decision to withdraw from the EU. We noted the statement that was put out by the RCN confirming its commitment to ensuring that the nursing voice continues to be heard on a wide range of national and international nursing issues. We also noted Janet Davies' statement condemning any prejudice or racist abuse directed at nursing staff.
13. The next steps will be discussed in more detail at July Council.

International Centenary Conference

14. We received an update on preparations for the RCN's international centenary conference on 22-23 November 2016 and discussed some gaps in the draft programme around prevention, men's health, learning disability and the use of technology to reach out to rural communities.

Celebrating Nursing Practice: Showcasing the Nursing Contribution to High Quality Care

15. We received an update on the project previously named '100 Nursing Secrets' which is being funded by the RCN Foundation and will continue to receive updates as work progresses. We were pleased to see that the Fellows and our Forums were actively involved

Care of Older People Summit

16. We received an update on the work of the task and finish group set up in response to discussions at the Fellows summit in December 2014 to consider an RCN response to the negative issues manifest in older people's nursing in the UK.
17. NPPC noted the key issues identified and the three recommendations that had been made to strengthen the RCN's work in supporting the delivery of high quality nursing care for older people. We noted that it is the subject of the Public Lecture being hosted by the Fellows on 14 July to celebrate their 40th Anniversary and we will be continuing to support work in this area.

Congress 2016 Agenda Items

18. We discussed and agreed the Committee leads for each agenda item arising from Congress and whether or not each item required new work to be scoped and implemented; could be incorporated in or covered by an existing work-stream or required no further work.

Reporting Bodies

19. We received a report back from the Forums Chairs Committee on 14 April 2016 and noted that the Committee has asked for the decision that Council members cannot serve as Forum Chairs or forum steering committee members to be re-visited as part of the Council Review implementation project.
20. We received a report back from the Forums Governance Group held on 25 May 2016 and request that the Agenda Committee gives consideration to not organising any fringe events immediately after the AGM in 2017 given its tendency to run over time.
21. We also received reports back from meetings of the Students Committee (26 May 2016) and the Health Practitioners Committee (13 April 2016).

Any Other Business

22. We requested that consideration be given to starting future NPPC meetings at 9.30am (particularly the first meeting after Congress) to allow sufficient time to fully discuss each item on the agenda.

The Committee next meets on 3 November 2016.