



RCN Council

Date of Meeting:	05 April 2017
Title of Paper:	Report from the President
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	Cecilia Anim
Is a decision required? <u>No</u>	

Overview of reporting period 12 December 2016 – 31 March 2017

Over the last three months, my diary has been busy with a number of engagements where I have been meeting with members who are delivering care at the front line, often in tremendously challenging circumstances.

A consistent picture appears to be emerging with nursing leaders across the health and social care systems struggling to balance tough workforce issues, demand that is growing in complexity and scale as well as worsening morale in the workplace. This systemic stress creates the conditions for poor behaviour and even poorer experiences and outcomes for RCN members in the workplace. I firmly believe that we must support and empower our members to support and empower each other in these troubling times.

During this period, there are two particular highlights that I would like to draw your attention to:

On International Women’s Day I travelled to the University of Bradford to give a speech about how the University could utilise International Women’s Day to accelerate the pace for change towards achieving gender equality. Using transforming organisational culture for gender equality in research and innovation (Genovate) the core goal is to ensure equal opportunities for women and men by encouraging a more gender competent management in research, innovation and scientific decision making bodies with a particular focus on universities.

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I later spoke at an event hosted by the Mayor of Bradford at City Hall. I spoke about the need to support disadvantaged young people and empowering them to achieve their potential. The appeal was for the charity Young Minds that exists to ensure that children, young people and their parents within the Bradford District are aware of the services on offer and where to find them and helping parents to contribute to the mental health of their children.

I am extremely grateful for the support I received from Anne Kennedy, Glen Turp, Regional Director, and Wendy Irwin, Diversity and Equalities co-ordinator, in preparing for these successful visits.

On the 9th March, I attended the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation European conference in Cyprus. The conference explored the theme of working towards a safe future. There were excellent sessions focusing on leadership, women's health, innovation in practice as well as life-long strategies across nursing and midwifery.

I had the pleasure of chairing one of these sessions and was impressed by both the innovation and commitment to evidenced- base practice. There was one particular presentation that was of particular interest. It provided a systematic review of the factors that influenced the health of nursing staff. It explored the factors that impacted upon it and concluded that the welfare of nurses certainly impact patient outcomes. That is a message that is familiar to us all.