

Council

Date of Meeting:	18 July 2018
Title of Paper:	Report of the Professional Nursing Committee (and its Reporting Bodies)
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. The Professional Nursing Committee met on 19 June 2018.

Business Agenda Items

2. There were four key items on the agenda for this meeting as below.

Nurse Staffing for Safe and Effective Care Across the UK

3. The Committee discussed the development of the campaign to lobby government for legislation for the accountable provision of safe staffing levels in each country of the UK. All Committee members are now discussing the next steps with their Boards.

Decriminalisation of Abortion (Termination of Pregnancy)

4. Based on the results of the membership survey, the Committee discussed next steps in the decriminalisation of abortion project. It agreed the results should stand and that the RCN should now prepare and issue a position statement.
5. The Committee also agreed that now would be a good time to lead an intercollegiate discussion on how best to proceed.

6. A project plan for the next stage of the work will now be developed in liaison with nominated Committee members.

NMC Education Standards/ Practice Based Education Support

7. The Committee noted the current position with regards to the roll-out of the new NMC education standards and the implications for the nursing profession.
8. It was agreed that the RCN should tender for the contract to quality assure the new standards.

Work of the RCN Forums

9. The Committee received a briefing on the work of the forums and the Valuing Forums project and considered whether a further representative of the Committee should attend future Forums Governance Group meetings in addition to Tracie Culpitt who represents the HP membership category at the meetings.

Emerging Priorities in Key Strategic Areas

10. The Committee then spent some time looking at emerging priorities/ future work.
11. Members were updated on the RCN's professional activity relating to the independent sector with a focus on care homes and shared their own experiences. There was a discussion on how to better promote this as a career.
12. Consideration was then given to the scope of a new project to address the contemporary issues in prison nursing. This follows on from the resolution passed at Congress 2018 to improve morale and conditions of prison nursing staff across the UK.
13. Finally under this item, the Committee discussed the work arising from Congress 2018 and is in the process of agreeing the list of Committee leads for each item.
14. All the emerging priorities will come back to a future meeting for action.
15. The Professional Nursing Committee next meets on 29/30 October 2018.

Reporting Bodies

Forums Governance Group (FGG)

16. FGG met on 7 June and will next meet on 18 September 2018.

17. At the June meeting FGG reviewed 36 forum representation reports for the period January – May 2018 and approved a new member representation form.
18. FGG then discussed 12 project bids that had been submitted by forums for approval, including 3 submitted prior to the meeting as fast track bids. None were declined although some were only part approved.
19. FGG agreed the new process for appointing Forum Chairs and noted the process and timelines for the 2018 appointments of Chairs and steering committee members. There was also a discussion on data collected on forum outputs.
20. The Group agreed the Professional Nursing Committee briefing paper on the work of the forums and the Valuing Forums project and discussed how it would like to work with the Committee.
21. Also at the June meeting, FGG received a presentation on the RCN's commercial strategy and discussed how to make the forum events process more robust. It was agreed that both of these would be discussed further with Forum Chairs in October where the difference between a workshop and a conference would be clarified.
22. Finally, FGG agreed that the District Nursing Forum could change its name to the District and Community Nursing Forum and approved the new evaluation form that forums will be asked to complete at the end of each project.

Fellows Co-ordinating Committee

23. The Fellows Co-ordinating Committee last met on 20 February and will next meet on 11 September 2018.
24. Their discussion in February concentrated on arrangements for the joint Fellows/ RCN Foundation Congress 2018 fringe event titled 'specialists v. generalists: getting the balance right for the nursing workforce'. On the day this was very well attended and very positive feedback received afterwards.
25. There was also a discussion on the review of the criteria for Fellowship of the RCN and also the wider nominations process. The Committee noted that the Professional Nursing Committee was to be asked to lead on this work.
26. The Committee considered the future role of the RCN in education given that the organisation already has degree awarding powers embedded in its Royal Charter and agreed that this will be the topic of the November 2018 full Fellows meeting.

27. Finally, the Co-ordinating Committee began planning for the 2018 Fellows annual lecture in November which will consider the position of women in society/health to mark the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918.

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