The Royal College of Nursing Professional Nursing Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Name of Committee

The Royal College of Nursing Professional Nursing Committee

2. Purpose of the Committee

The Committee is one of the two principal governance committees of the RCN working with the delegated authority of Council. The purpose of the Committee is to provide oversight on behalf of RCN Council to that part of the work of the RCN related to its role as a Royal College as set out in Article 3 of its Royal Charter, namely to:

- promote the science and art of nursing and education and training in the profession of nursing;
- promote the advance of nursing as a profession in all or any of its branches;
- promote the professional standing and interests of members;
- assist members who by reason of adversity, ill-health or otherwise are in need of assistance of any nature;
- promote through the medium of international agencies and otherwise the foregoing purposes in other countries as well as in Our United Kingdom

3. Role of the Committee

The Committee is a governance committee with the delegated authority of Council and its decisions are taken as a collective in the best interests of the organisation as a whole. The role of the Committee is:

- to be accountable to RCN Council for its work and the decisions it takes;
- to work in partnership with the RCN Trade Union Committee, the other principal governance committee of Council;
- to be accountable for and actively promote the RCN as the source of knowledge on professional nursing issues and the voice of nursing and healthcare locally, across the UK and internationally;
- to agree the professional strategic priorities for the RCN in relation to its role as a Royal College and ensure they are actioned;
• to oversee the governance of forums and ensure that their work is recognised and integrated into the RCN’s work related to its role as a Royal College and the delivery of its priorities as well as reflecting the specialist interests;

• to work with country and regional Boards to ensure that the priorities for the RCN in relation to its role as a Royal College are actioned locally;

• to work with the Nursing Support Workers Committee and the Students Committee to ensure that the Committee is the voice of all membership categories;

• to enable members to participate in the work of the Committee and ensure that their views, ideas and concerns inform decision-making and influence policy and practice in nursing;

• to ensure that the work and contribution of the Fellows of the RCN is recognised and integrated into the RCN’s work related to its role as a Royal College;

• to ensure that the Committee works in partnership with external stakeholders in particular with the medical Royal Colleges and the Academy of Royal Colleges;

• to be mindful whilst undertaking its work of the need to respond flexibly to business, financial, legal or other needs that may arise.

4. Responsibilities

• to make recommendations to the RCN Council on strategic policy priorities and forward planning;

• to oversee the education, learning and development strategy of the RCN to ensure that it meets the needs of all its members;

• to develop the science and art of nursing to support the very best professional practice and standards of care;

• to shape and influence health and social care locally and nationally, and to monitor and receive reports on the effects of such policies on nursing and patient care;

• to commission research in nursing for the purpose of improving nursing practice, testing and disseminating nursing knowledge;
• to commission and quality assure project work in the priority areas identified;

• to champion work and provide a governance lead on relevant RCN Congress items, once approved by Council;

• to be accountable for and monitor the RCN’s performance as a Royal College and the Committee’s performance and effectiveness against key performance indicators, and its annual plan.

**Schedule 1 – Delegated Policies**

The following bullet points are the areas of work that have been delegated to the Committee by the RCN Council, and are therefore within the Committee’s remit to provide expert advice and strategic direction on:

• Quality and standards  
• Education  
• Research  
• Nursing practice including specialities  
• Health and social care policy  
• Design and delivery of safe practice and healthcare  
• Public policy related to the work of the RCN in relation to its role as a Royal College  
• Political affairs and the lobbying agenda in relation to its role as a Royal College

**Schedule 2 – The Reporters**

Forums Governance Group  
Forum Chairs Committee  
Fellows Co-ordinating Committee