Professional Nursing Committee
Report to Members – June 2019

1. The Professional Nursing Committee met on 21 June 2019.

2. We had two new members at that meeting – Carly Boyce (South West) and Tim Grace (Northern).

3. We also held a Committee strategy day on 2 September 2019 at which we reviewed the role of the Committee and our priorities in setting out our work programme. We will be preparing an open letter to the 2020 Council on how we see our future role in setting the professional agenda of the College. We will also be suggesting amendments to our current terms of reference in line with this.

Committee Work Programme

4. We discussed future ways of working to ensure engagement from across the organisation in the delivery of our strategic priorities and to ensure we contribute to relevant work being led by other parts of the governance and representative structure.

5. Following discussion at our strategy day in September, we will be finalising our work programme at our next meeting in October and receiving updates on the work to date against each of the priority areas identified.

Congress 2019 Allocation of Work

6. We allocated Committee leads for each of the Congress 2019 agenda items allocated to the Professional Nursing Committee.

7. We asked that the role descriptor for the Committee lead be reviewed to make it clear that the role is one of oversight and scrutiny.

Working with RCN Forums

8. The Chair of the Forums Governance Group joined our meeting to brief us on (i) the wide range of projects and activities being led by the different forums and (ii) the role of the governance group and how it works and (iii) our oversight and scrutiny role and what more we should be doing to support the work of forums.
9. We also discussed the importance of joint working between the forums and the Committee to achieve a joined up approach to delivering the organisation’s strategic objectives as well as to ensure we are utilising their expertise.

10. We will be meeting with the Forum Chairs in October to explore how they can best contribute to work to develop a professional strategy.

Staffing for Safe and Effective Care

11. Theresa Fyffe gave an update on progress with the UK campaign and Helen Whyley presented work on the campaign in Wales.

12. Denise Llewellyn, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on UK Safe and Effective Staffing, also reported on the first meeting of that Committee.

Strategic Research Alliance: RCN and University of Sheffield

13. We received an update on priority research activity for the Alliance going forward as well as on the delivery of key pieces of work for 2019.

14. We sought assurances over monitoring arrangements for the contract with the university.

15. We requested that a summary of the performance exception reports received by the steering group supporting the Alliance be submitted to the next Committee meeting in addition to a list of 2019 priorities for discussion.

Plan to Develop an RCN Education Strategy

16. We discussed a presentation setting out plans to develop an overarching framework for education to be in place by December 2020.

17. An outline was given on the current and historical position and the drivers, opportunities and risks going forward in developing a new RCN education offer.

18. We provided our initial feedback on the outline scope and we agreed that the strategy should be inclusive of the whole membership; should focus on where the RCN could add value and be ambitious in our aspirations to support the workforce of the future.

Prince of Wales Cadet Scheme

19. We discussed progress with the pilot of a new nursing cadet scheme in Wales with Ministry of Defence cadets and noted plans to roll out the model across the UK.

20. The Prince of Wales officially launched the scheme on 2 July.
Practice Based Learning Project – Phase One

21. We received an update on the project to support implementation of the new NMC Standards for Education - which was launched in May 2018.

22. An evaluation of phase one of the project has been undertaken and the key successes were outlined for us. Phase two is currently being scoped.

23. We emphasised the importance of focusing on upskilling the current workforce and on gathering intelligence on the implementation to ensure consistency across the UK.

24. We asked that a representative from the NMC be invited to our next meeting to further discuss the new standards.

NMC Strategy Consultation

25. A presentation was received on key themes identified by the NMC in their five year strategy.

26. An update was also provided on the themes arising from the RCN member survey which is focused on four key questions from the NMC and in particular the key issues for the profession and how the NMC should help address these.

27. It was noted that some of the responses from members revealed a degree of confusion between the roles and responsibilities of the NMC and the RCN.

28. We discussed the RCN’s position on the extension of NMC regulation for the un-registered nurse workforce and noted that the Nursing Support Workers Committee would be considering this in more detail at their next meeting.

RCN Fellowship

29. We considered a paper setting out the history of RCN Fellowship, the current definition and process for electing RCN Fellows.

30. We agreed to recommend to Council that the definition worked up by the Fellows Co-ordinating Committee in 2018 should be adopted from 2020 - pending a longer-term comprehensive review of Fellowship following the completion of the work by the Council Task and Finish Group reviewing the membership categories.

The Committee next meets on 30 October 2019.
Committee Membership

Simon Browes (East Midlands – CHAIR)
Rachel Hollis (Yorkshire and the Humber – VICE CHAIR)
Carly Boyce (South West)
Mary Codling (South East)
Theresa Connor (Scotland)
Tracie Culpitt (Nursing Support Worker)
Tim Grace (Northern)
Julie Green (West Midlands)
Denise Llewellyn (Wales)
Lucy Mason (Student)
Claire McGuigan (Northern Ireland)
Jacky Price (Eastern)
Sally Young (North West)
Mary Wells (London)

Anne Marie Rafferty (President)

Apologies were received from Mary Codling, Julie Green and Claire McGuigan for the meeting on 21 June.

Apologies were received from Denise Llewellyn and Claire McGuigan for the strategy day on 2 September.

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