

Could you be...

... an RCN board member?

Role summary

Board members act in a governance capacity which, in summary, means you:

- are accountable for the areas set out in the board's terms of reference
- contribute to strategic thinking and policy development
- act as a critical friend to the RCN, and as an advocate and representative of members in your region or country
- champion and promote the RCN as well as nursing and its contribution to health and wellbeing, wherever and whenever you can.

“The RCN couldn't function without its boards – they're a crucial link between Council and members. Our boards tell us what is happening locally and inform all the decisions that we make.”

Michael Brown, Chair of RCN Council
2014.

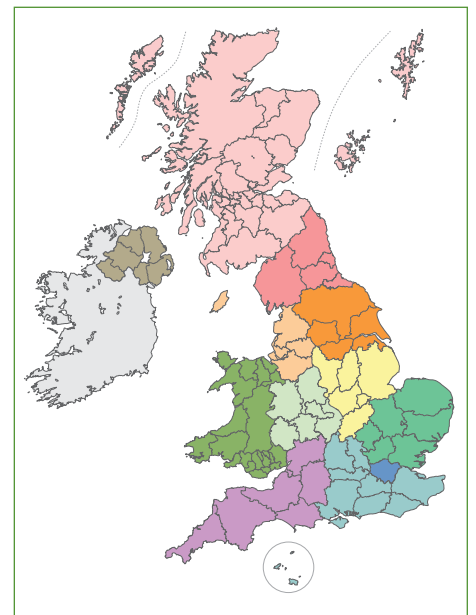
As a board member you fulfil a vital role in helping the board to achieve its purpose, representing the RCN and its members within the context of wider health and social care developments impacting upon nursing and patient care.

The role

Being an RCN board member provides an invaluable experience with plenty of personal career development opportunities. It also allows RCN members to represent nursing, speak out about the issues that matter, and influence the work of the RCN.

Key responsibilities

- Advise and support the director and the rest of the board on matters relating to your region or country.
 - Support the director to achieve the objectives in the strategic, operational and financial plan.
 - Ensure that the priorities set by RCN Council are actioned in your region or country.
 - Liaise with, and act as, advocates for members in your region or country and ensure that the board, as well as RCN Council and its committees, are aware of and understand members' views, ideas and concerns.
 - Share your expertise and experience with the RCN and help identify others who may assist the work of the board.
 - Represent the views of the RCN and act as an advocate for the RCN's aims and objectives.
- Foster good relations with, and between, RCN branches, forums, networks, and workplaces.
 - Assist the RCN in developing constructive and lasting partnerships with policy and decision makers, other professional bodies, the wider public and the media.
 - Influence the development of nursing, health and social care in your region or country in line with RCN strategy and policy.
 - Contribute to, or lead on, delegated projects and working groups as necessary.



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What we are looking for

- A passion for nursing and wanting to make a difference.
- A sound understanding of nursing and health issues within the country or region.
- An understanding of, and commitment to, the RCN, its purpose and its work.
- The ability to listen to, and speak up for, members in the country or region.
- Strategic vision and the ability to focus on practical issues.
- Objectivity, fairness, independence of mind, wisdom, discretion and good judgement.
- Integrity and commitment to act in the best interests of the RCN.
- Awareness of how the world is changing politically, economically and socially.
- The capability to give direct, honest opinions and constructive suggestions.
- A readiness to take and be accountable for decisions.
- To be willing to abide by the RCN's Dignity Charter.

“Being a board member is a challenging but rewarding role critical in both contributing to the RCN’s governance and in supporting local decision making. I would encourage members to grab the opportunity to become a board member, not least because the skills gained are transferrable to one’s own day job.”

Alison, Northern Ireland board member
2014

How to become a board member

- Board elections take place every two years; members will be notified of these.
- Vacancies may also arise in between times, so check the RCN website.
- Eligible candidates are full RCN nurse, health practitioner or student member with a workplace or educational address in the country or region concerned.
- A nomination form must be submitted by the candidate and two RCN members from the same country or region must support your nomination.

All forms and full details of the role can be found at: www.rcn.org.uk/elections

About RCN boards

There are three country and nine regional boards which advise and support directors on matters relating to their locations:

- RCN Northern Ireland Board
- RCN Scotland Board
- RCN Wales Board

England regions:

- RCN Eastern Region Board
- RCN East Midlands Board
- RCN London Board
- RCN Northern Board
- RCN North West Board
- RCN South East Board
- RCN South West Board
- RCN West Midlands Board
- RCN Yorkshire & the Humber Board

Find out more

www.rcn.org.uk/elections

www.rcn.org.uk/aboutus/england

www.rcn.org.uk/aboutus/northernireland

www.rcn.org.uk/aboutus/scotland

www.rcn.org.uk/aboutus/wales

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The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies.

www.rcn.org.uk