

Dr Nichola Ashby, Head of Learning and Practice Development, Royal College of Nursing, UK

Dr Nichola Ashby is the Head of Learning and Practice Development at the Royal College of Nursing. She strategically leads the development and delivery of the RCN education, learning and development offer across the UK, influencing the development of health policy and representing nursing and nurses from across the entire health and social care provision. She is also an Associate Professor at Nottingham University (hon).

She delivers critical care and major trauma education and represents the RCN on the development of national competency frameworks and strategic leadership responses, for care delivery and workforce development for UK ICU Covid 19 response. Nichola sits on the steering group for the National Clinical Enquiry of Outcome and Clinical Death and attends stakeholder and advisory groups representing the RCN members at NHSE/I, Health Education England, Council of Deans and The Nursing Midwifery Council. Nichola represents nursing voices from the UK entire health and social care workforce, influencing policy development, care delivery and education. She has led the RCN education team to establish a strategic direction for education, learning and development and is working on the development of a research strategy and professional framework.

As an active researcher, Nichola's PhD explored the stigmatising attitudes values and beliefs of healthcare workers towards iatrogenic infections and she has developed a longitudinal educational model. She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She continues to actively support research into student experiences of learning during Covid 19.