

## RCN Forum Annual Report 2018

### Forum:

Learning Disability Nursing Forum

### Introduction:

2018 has been a significant year for the Learning Disability Forum in our ongoing efforts to persuade the Government to address our concerns over the huge decline in both Nurses in practice and those in training. This is even more concerning when in the same year the LeDeR report highlighted the fact that there is a 20 to 30-year reduced life expectancy of people with a Learning Disability due largely to undiagnosed and treatable health conditions.

### Achievements in 2018: (Outputs and outcomes)

Jonathan Beebee proposed an emergency resolution at Congress “That this meeting of RCN Congress asks RCN Council to call for urgent action to be taken to preserve the field of learning disability nursing.”, and that motion was carried unanimously.

Glen Batey has been particularly successful in getting both MP’s and Peers to understand and champion our concerns.

Karina-Marshall Tate, Dave Williams and Dave Atkinson have worked tirelessly to represent the forum and to highlight the above concerns at numerous national events and forums, as have I.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February we hosted and chaired the launch event for Mencap’s “Treat me Well” Campaign at RCN HQ which received nationwide coverage.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 the RCN hosted the Learning/Intellectual Disability Nursing Academic Network Summit conference at Cavendish House and Simon Jones and Jonathan Beebee presented at this important event regarding the future of Learning Disability Nursing

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 we wrote a joint letter to Professor Webster-Henderson, Professor Dame Donna, Ms Chester and Ms Lay regarding the huge decline in the September 2018 intake for pre-registration learning disability nursing courses

We have recruited a new Forum Committee member, Holly Parry, a relatively newly qualified nurse, who will be a great asset and widens the profile of the committee expertise.

Our Facebook page has 1,907 members and is updated daily and is very actively posted to, commented upon and “liked” by many. The forum membership now stands at 3109.

We , as a forum committee, have also represented the Royal College of Nursing at: -

- Positive Choices/Positive Commitment Jonathon Beebee April18
- Challenging Behaviour Foundation Simon Jones April 18
- Working Group on Learning Disability and Healthcare Inequalities Simon Jones July18

- Royal Mencap Learning Disability Week 2018 Parliamentary Reception Karina Marshall Tate June 2018
- Working Group on Learning Disability and Healthcare Inequalities Simon Jones July 18.
- NHS England Task and Finish Group: the future of Learning Disability Nursing Karina Marshall Tate 27 November 2017, 22 December 2017, 22 January 2018, 26 February, 24 April
- Challenging Behaviour Foundation Simon Jones November 2018
- Promoting Nursing Careers De Montford University Simon Jones November 2018

### **Contribution to Consultations/ Policy**

We are participating in a new campaign which calls on the Government and NHS England to #FundOurFuture nurses by reinvesting £1bn back into nursing higher education in England.

The campaign is asking members to email their MPs asking them to support the campaign by writing to Matt Hancock MP and Simon Stevens. We are also asking student members to share their story via our online web form or by uploading a video of their story directly on Twitter.

### **Membership of the forum**

Numbers of members- 3109

Committee membership – Simon Jones (Chair) Jonathan Beebee, Glen Batey, Karina-Marshall Tate, Dave Williams and Dave Atkinson. We have recruited a new Forum Committee member this year, Holly Parry, a relatively newly qualified nurse, who will be a great asset and widens the profile of the committee expertise. We had lots of interest in joining the committee this year.

### **Plans for 2019:**

We have submitted one Project Bid this year for £12k to fund a film promoting a career in Learning Disability Nursing and think we have approval although this has not been communicated. We are currently in progress of asking film companies to quote for producing in response to the brief we have circulated.

Aspirations for future work:-

As well as making the film, see above, we are also planning a fringe vent to celebrate 100 years of Learning Disability Nursing, and we have collaborated with the RCN Library regarding this. We are also in discussion with the various RCN Regional Offices to host local events to both celebrate the anniversary, but more importantly, to highlight the ongoing need for Learning Disability Nurses. We are planning a follow up Congress Resolution re the

shortage and will be spending much of 2019 as we did in 2018 highlight the need for Learning Disability Nurses and pressing for action to resolve.

**Date Prepared:29/11/18**

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## Strengthening the Commitment: demonstrating the value of learning disability nursing services

Health Education England and health Technology Wales each sponsored 5 Learning Disability nurses to undertake the RCN Demonstrating value programme. Having completed this bespoke programme, these Learning Disability nurses now have the skills, tools and techniques at their fingertips to demonstrate the value of current and planned LD led nursing services.

What have they learned? They now know how to identify their stakeholders and construct a simple logic model to present a visual representation of their service. They have used their model to facilitate conversations with stakeholders and refined their model as required, to ensure a shared understanding of their service.

They have learnt about different approaches to economic assessment and made an informed decision with their key stakeholders on the economic assessment approach they have taken to achieve the desired impact. They have applied the principles of economic assessment in practice following HM treasury guidance and demonstrated the true economic costs and the benefits of their services.

Nine participants have drafted an economic case study and, to date, two have been published on the RCN website alongside nurses working in other fields of practice <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/research-and-innovation/innovation-in-nursing/case-studies-demonstrating-the-value-of-nursing>

In Wales, Linda Phillips has shown how she and her colleagues will demonstrate the true value of a new Acute Learning Disability Liaison Service. In her report Linda sets out the policy drivers and local context for this service development. She details the full economic set up and running costs of the service as £80,700.45 in year 1 and £80554.19 in year 2. Linda sets out a wide range of qualitative and quantitative benefits, some of which she has monetised. For example, Linda shows that by enabling a reduction in the length of hospital stay, cost are avoided. For example if the length of stay for 39% of patients with a learning disability is reduced by one day **£50,255.23** per year of costs would be avoided. However following peer review it was agreed reasonable to assume that approximately a third of patients admitted will have complex needs. Based on a current patient case study, Linda estimates potential cost avoidance could be between **£582,689.25** and **£791,859.75** per year. Furthermore, reduced length of stay will free up capacity and contribute to Welsh Government targets for A&E and referral to treatment times.

In England, Delia Wainwright demonstrated the value of developing the role of a non-medical approved clinician for an inpatient learning disability service. Delia set out the policy drivers and local context for this role development and has shown that her proposal is both safe and

cost effective. She argues that evidence shows there is no risk to quality or service delivery. Delia concludes that when fully implemented a non-medical approved clinician has the potential to release recurrent financial savings of £34,102.68 per annum. In the absence of Consultant Psychiatrist capacity, the costs a non-medical approved clinician may be compared to the costs of an agency locum Consultant Psychiatrist as approved clinician and seen to be £101,506.68 per annum more cost effective.

There are powerful examples however more importantly, these nurses will continue to apply this learning in their everyday practice. They will have meaningful conversations with service planners and commissioners to ensure decisions are based on the best available evidence and informed by Learning Disability nurses.