Local News

Our Branch remains one of the most active in London and we recently welcomed Dr Matthew Hodson, Respiratory nurse consultant and London RCN Council member who gave the branch an update on Advanced COPD. It was nearly standing room only as members from across outer south west London came to hear Matt speak. During International Nurse week we have Professor Dame Donna Kinnair, Director of Nursing, Policy and Practice at the RCN speaking on her journey to the top of the nursing profession. Professor Donna is from a BME background and has held a number of senior positions including advising government ministers and leading several health organisations. There will be other speakers joining us and the afternoon concludes with awards for nurse, midwife and support worker of the year. Please do come along if you are able and join in this prestigious event.

Congress is coming up in June in Glasgow’s SCC and we have 4 voting places. At our last branch meeting it was agreed that we should try and support more members to attend Congress in Glasgow this summer. (18-22 June) We have some branch funds which need to be used before the end of 2016 so if you would like to get some financial help to attend please let branch chair Mike Smith know by April 30th. Please note you would need to produce receipts for reimbursement and this would be to an agreed amount prior to booking depending on how many applicants we have. You would also be expected to attend Congress if subsidised by the branch. Branch chair Mike will be proposing an item in his stewards role requesting that all four countries governments of the UK follow Wales in laying down minimum staffing levels. You can follow events live on line if you are unable to attend in person.

London News

The RCN in London together with sister trade unions and NHS organisations have analysed the postcodes of more than 100,000 NHS staff (between 2010 and 2015) and the results show that more staff are moving out of London to live and work. During this time, transport costs rose by 25% and average house prices rose by 37%. 11 times the average NHS London salary. Our research highlighted 10,000 nursing vacancies in London which could rise by 25% by 2020. Suitable housing and transport solutions could go some way to attract and retain healthcare workers in the capital thus addressing the issue of staffing levels. The RCN, as part of the London NHS Partnership, are calling on London Mayoral candidates to help the future of NHS workers with a commitment to:

- Work with London’s NHS employers and Transport for London, to review the scope to reduce transport costs for key NHS staff
- Provide key worker housing and prioritise new housing developments for NHS workers
Around the country the RCN is celebrating its 100th anniversary with special exhibitions, services, branch events, photo competitions and much more. Our branch is planning to have a celebratory event in July at Epsom so look out for more details soon. You can also visit RCN head quarters in Cavendish Square which will be hosting an exhibition celebrating the 100 years through most of the year.

Branch chair Mike Smith recently attended the national stewards committee up in Liverpool. Pictured below with members of the stewards, health and safety and learning reps national committees from the four countries of the UK, the event included a session on the impact the RCN had had on the development of nursing and the profession over the last 100 years. There was also opportunities to network best practice from around the country and talk about the challenges facing nursing and activists in the coming year.
The Branch recently made a response to a national survey about how branches will be funded from 2017. The branch currently receives a small amount of money for each member and a small lump sum to provide all its local activities and an additional set sum to send people to Congress.

Our Branch is lobbying to have money made available so we can continue to have professional events such as our free study days, along side the business part of our meetings. We also want the RCN finance department to make our banking arrangements far more transparent and easy to understand as currently most branches struggle to know what money they have and how it is being accounted for.
Here to Help ~ Useful Names + Numbers

The Branch is run by volunteer local nurses and the current branch team are:

Chair - Mike Smith (07930 410386)
Secretary – Lynette Drakes (Day Case Unit Epsom)
Treasurer – Gerry Cotter (01372 735279)
Recruitment - Joan Chappell
Learning & Development - Sheila Gooljar

Local RCN Stewards
Mike Smith (ESH)* 07930 410386    Gerry Cotter (ESH) (01372 735279)
David Simpson (Independent Sector)    Selven Armon (CUH)

Health & Safety Reps
Sheila Gooljar (Independent sector)    Mike Smith (ESH)
David Simpson (Independent Sector)
Learning Reps
Debbie Broom (ESH)

Full time officers
Paula Delaney, Judith Janes, Trish Davis & Julie Mulvey based in London Regional Office
covering Merton & Sutton, Croydon & SW London

RCN Council Members for London    Cynthia Davis, Dr Matthew Hodson
Regional Board Member    Selven Armon

*CUH - Croydon University Hospital   *ESH - Epsom and St Helier
*Community CCG’s - covering Merton & Sutton, Surrey Downs

RCN London Region, 5th Floor, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN Tel. 0345 458 6968
Director of London Region    Mr Bernel Bussue

Raising concerns, raising standards (Whistleblowing) helpline for RCN members: 0345 772 6300
RCN Member Support Services 0345 408 4391.
The service offers guidance on benefit entitlement, money advice, counselling and careers.

RCN Foundation - bursaries, project grants and help for times of need or hardship - go to www.rcnfoundation.org.uk 0207 647 3645

Branch meeting dates for 2016:

Friday 13 May Nurses Day events, PGMC St Helier hospital - 1 - 4pm
18-22 June - RCN Congress SECC, Glasgow
Monday 4 July, Centenary celebration event, Epsom, evening
Wednesday 14 September, AGM & meal at Croydon, evening
Friday 25 November, Autumn of Learning - Joint Branch Event, Sutton Hospital education site TBC

We welcome feedback from local members and the contribution of short articles for this quarterly newsletter. Please contact Mike Smith, Branch chair on his e-mail address michael.smith@esth.nhs.uk