RCN Nursing Support Workers' Day Conference 2026
Shining a light and celebrating 25 years

Leading Through Care: Empowering the Nursing Support Workforce

Monday 23 November 2026
RCN HQ, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN and MS Teams

Learning Outcomes

1. **Explain** the principles of compassionate and inclusive leadership and their impact on the nursing support workforce.
2. **Recognise** the vital contributions of nursing support staff to patient safety, quality of care, and team performance.
3. **Demonstrate** effective communication techniques that foster trust, collaboration, and psychological safety within healthcare teams.
4. **Identify** barriers to workforce engagement and develop practical approaches to improve motivation, retention, and job satisfaction.
5. **Promote** a culture of respect, recognition, and continuous learning that empowers nursing support staff to work to the full extent of their roles.
6. **Use** reflective leadership practices to evaluate personal leadership behaviours and identify opportunities for improvement.

Please note these programme details and timings are subject to change. A final programme will be available at the event.

Programme at a glance

10.00	**Registration, networking and refreshments**
10.30	**Facilitators' introduction** Richard 'Dreadlock Alien' Grant (Lead specialist) and Alan 'Kurly' McGeachie (CEO), Memorhyme Ltd – literacy engagement specialists
10.40	**Welcome** Sharon Mitchel, Chair, RCN Nursing Support Workers Committee Ofrah Muflahi, UK Professional Lead Nursing Support Workers, RCN Launch of Nursing Support Workers' Day film
10.50	**Leading change together** Professor Nicola Ranger, General Secretary and Chief Executive, RCN Presentation of memorabilia from SJ Stock, RCN Nursing Support Workers Committee - Eastern Representative

11.10	**Leadership starts with you** Bejoy Sebastian, President, RCN
11.20	**Beyond the job title: The difference you make** Theiba Khan, Lead Clinical Educator, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust Emily Mackenzie-Grieve, Lead Clinical Educator Unregister Workforce, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust
11.40	**Refreshments and exhibition viewing**
12.10	**Leading with compassion and courage** Ian Peate, Editor in Chief - British Journal of Nursing, Consultant Editor - International Journal for Advancing Practice, Consultant Editor - Journal of Paramedic Practice, Editorial Board member - British Journal of Healthcare Assistants, Author
12.40	**The accidental leader: How I went from HCA to leading a national committee without a magic wand** Sharon Mitchel, Chair, RCN Nursing Support Workers Committee and HCSW Practice Educator, Milton Keynes University Hospital
13.10	**Lunch and exhibition viewing**
14.00	**More than a support role: Finding your voice, growing your confidence and creating impact** Sarah Omode, Care Home Assistant Practitioner/ Student Nursing Associate, The Orchard Nursing Home (Caring Homes)
14.30	**"Uncle Mike" A brief history of learning disability nursing** Dave Parry, Vice Chair, RCN Nursing Support Workers Committee and Assistant Behavioural Practitioner, Specialist Behavioural Support Service, Learning Disability Services, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
15.00	**Refreshments and exhibition viewing**
15.20	**Navigating sustainability – Enhancing nursing practice through small changes** Rose Gallagher MBE, Professional Lead for Sustainability, RCN
15.40	**Jamaica Practical Nurses Alliance (via Teams)** Stephanie Powell-Spencer, President
16.00	**Summary and closing remarks** Mark Jarnell, Member of Council and ex-officio member of the Nursing Support Workers Committee Sharon Mitchel, Chair, RCN Nursing Support Workers Committee
16.15	**Conference close**

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