



RCN Northern Ireland Independent Sector Newsletter

RCN Northern Ireland Independent Sector Networks and meetings for 2026

ISNMN Network Lead: Connie Mitchell

ISNMN Network (virtual)

- 27/01/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 10/03/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 21/04/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 02/06/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 21/07/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 01/09/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 17/10/26 - 10-12.30pm

IS Agency Nurse Manager Network Lead: Angela Ballantine

IS Agency Nurse Manager Network (in-person)

- 20/01/26 - 11-12.30pm
- 04/03/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 26/05/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 28/07/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 29/09/26 - 10-12.30pm
- 24/11/26 - 10-12.30pm

Independent Sector events held in 2025

Education, Learning & Development Opportunities for Nurses and HCAs in the Independent Sector. Available at:

www.rcn.org.uk/northernireland/Independent-Sector-in-Northern-Ireland.

- NISCC meeting with IS Nurse Managers, 4 November 2025.
- RCN Northern Ireland Independent Sector Nursing Accountability & Delegation webinar 21 October 2025.
- RCN Northern Ireland IS School Nurse Network 14 October 2025: The hidden curriculum School Nursing & Diabetes.
- Corporate Manslaughter: RCN Masterclass for Band 8 HSC trust Nurse Managers and Nursing Home Managers, 7th October 2025.
- IS Network event: The rise of long-term conditions in IHSC: Are we ready? 26 August 2025.

Podcasts

- "The CIRCLE (Creating Inclusive Residential Care for LGBTQ+ Elders): Advancing Understanding of LGBTQ+ Ageing". [Dr Jolie Keemick, Dr Stephanie Craig and Brenda Rushe].
- "IHSC Learning Opportunities Initiative - What To Know On The Go (WTKOTG)". [Gillian McConvey, William Stritzel, Connie Mitchell and Brenda Rushe].

Nurse of the Year - Independent Sector Winner 2025 *Stacey Finlay, Deputy Lead of the Independent Sector Network. (see blog below)*



Blogs

- Inspiring Change: Stacey's Journey from Uncertainty to Nursing Leadership and Academic Excellence, Championing Care Homes as Rewarding Career Pathways.
- "The hidden impact of our independent sector school nurse legends: insights from a doctor shadowing".

The networks provide feedback on the Adult Protection Bill.

Ongoing IHSC Lead Nurse

- RCN Northern Ireland IHSC Lead is Co-Chairing the NIPEC Competency/Education Subgroup - Care Home Nursing Career Pathway. This ongoing work marks the first Career Pathway for Nurses employed in Nursing Homes.
- RCN Professional Representation on the DoH Review of Care Home Standards.
- RCN Professional Representation on the PHA Care Home Lead Meetings.
- Co-Chair of the afternoon in QUB "Enhancing Safety, Quality and Experience of Residents in Care Homes 8 May 2025.
- RCN Northern Ireland IS Networks event: RQIA- Good Governance 16 April 2025.

RCN NI launched the Library in a Box initiative.

If you would like your workplace to participate, please contact Brenda at Brenda.Rushe@rcn.org.uk.

The Library Box is available for loan for a few months and includes a selection of books and resources for you and your team.

Launched in Kingsbridge Hospital on Friday, 24 October 2025.



Nurses Day 2025

12 May 2025 - some of the pictures that were taken earlier this year.



Health Care Support Workers Day

23 November 2025



Contact Us

For more information, visit our website at:

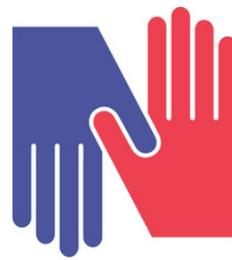
www.rcn.org.uk/northernireland/Independent-Sector-in-Northern-Ireland.

Contact Brenda.Rushe@rcn.org.uk (Northern Ireland IHSC Lead Nurse).



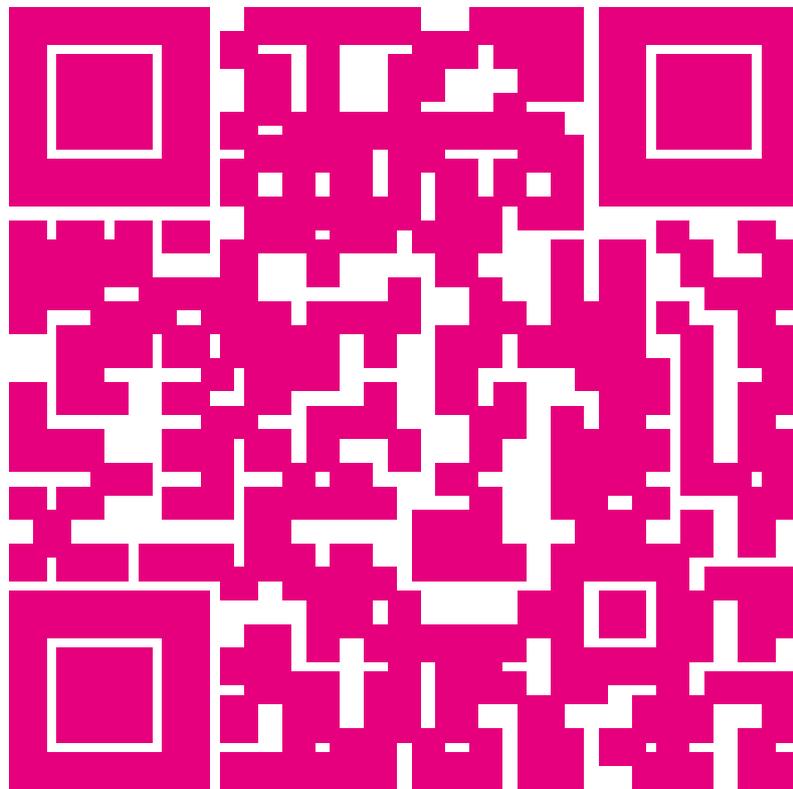
Christmas catch-up RCN Northern Ireland Independent Nurse Managers Network 17 December 2025





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