

Key messages from the RCN Northern Ireland Board meeting

7 September 2020

- 1] The Board Chair briefed Board members on recent developments in relation to the RCN presidential elections and calls for an Extraordinary General Meeting. Board members acknowledged the exceptional contribution of the Board Chair during this time.
- 2] The Board was notified that 11 nominations have been received for the forthcoming Board elections. These nominations are currently being validated and voting begins on 29 October 2020.
- 3] The Board received and noted an update on the delivery of the RCN Northern Ireland operational plan. This included a verbal briefing on job evaluation issues, the Director also updating Board members on the action being taken by the RCN at a UK level on these issues.
- 4] Board members received a briefing on the Rae Bequest and Marcia Mackie Funds. It was reported that three awards from the Rae Bequest have been made this year. The Board discussed and agreed the importance of the effective communication of information about these funding opportunities in order to ensure that applications are received from a broad range of practice settings across Northern Ireland.
- 5] The Board received a further update on the Sensemaker project. This is designed to enable the RCN to understand the experience of being a nurse in Northern Ireland in 2020, during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic. It was noted that, since 15 April 2020, around 180 stories have been captured and the RCN is continuing to encourage members to share their own experiences. It was also noted that the Sensemaker project is now being promoted directly to participants in RCN Northern Ireland professional development activity. The Board agreed that the intelligence deriving from this project should be used to inform the RCN's campaigning work on pay and safe staffing.
- 6] The Board received a report on the work of the RCN UK Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that options for the future of this committee will be considered by RCN Council in November.

- 7] The Board unanimously approved a proposal to establish an RCN Northern Ireland BAME Network in order to address issues of particular concern to BAME members in Northern Ireland.
- 8] The Board agreed meeting dates for 2021.
- 9] Minutes were approved of the Board meeting held on 11 May 2020 and the special Board meeting held on 9 July 2020.
- 10] The Board received an update on the RCN UK #FairPayForNursing campaign. It was noted that a membership engagement programme for this campaign is currently being developed. The campaign will be discussed in detail with members at the forthcoming branch annual general meetings. The Board discussed and agreed the need for consistent messaging in supporting members to articulate the RCN's pay demands.
- 11] The Board received, discussed and approved a revised and updated risk register, and the performance management report for the second quarter of 2020.
- 12] The Board received and noted quarterly reports from each of the RCN branches in Northern Ireland.
- 13] The Board Chair thanked Board members and staff for their hard work and commitment to the service of RCN members during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 14] The next meeting of the RCN Northern Ireland Board will take place on Monday 7 December 2020.