

RCN Scotland Board

Minutes of the RCN Scotland Board meeting held virtually/in person,

11-16.00 on Thursday 1 June 2023

OPEN SESSION

Present:

North Sector

Jackie Leith (JLe)
June Ramsay (JR)

East Sector

Lesley Cunningham (LC)
Jane Gibson (JG)
Hilary Nelson (HN)

West Sector

*Derek Clark (DC)
Julie Lamberth (JL)

Chair

Other Seats

Jasmin Clark (JC)
Martha Gill
Tobias Kunkel (TK)

Council
Professional Nursing Committee
Trade Union Committee

In attendance:

Colin Poolman (CP)	Director, RCN Scotland
Eileen McKenna (EMcK)	Associate Director, Nursing, Policy & Professional Practice, RCN Scotland
Norman Provan (NP)	Associate Director, Employment Relations, RCN Scotland
Luci Pollard	Board Administrator, RCN Scotland
Carol Harris (CH)	Communications and Public Affairs Manager, RCN Scotland
Sian Kiely (SK)	Knowledge and Research Manager
Philip Coghill (PC)	Scotland Lead for Pay, Terms & Conditions
Allan Wallace (AW)	Observer and Policy Advisor
Nicola Gordon (NG)	Policy Manager
Joanne Noble	L&D and Membership Administrator

Apologies:

Allina Das (AD)	
Martin Macgregor (MM)	Vice-Chair
Katherine Dumigan (KD)	
Sandra Milne (SM)	
Greg Usrey (GU)	

*left before the end of the meeting

+joined after the start of the meeting

#joined the meeting virtually

1. Welcome and Apologies
The Chair welcomed the Board to the open session.
2. Minutes of the meetings held on 2 March and 20 April 2023
These were noted as an accurate record of the meeting.
3. Update from the Board Chair on Confidential Session
- 3.1 No additional members or staff joining the Open session, so no update was required.

AGM Presentation

Colin Poolman, gave a presentation on preparation for the AGM. The AGM is on 10 July 2023. Council discussed the AGM agenda last week; formal notice of the AGM will be given on 16 June.

Resolution 1 – extension to Council members’ terms of office. This proposal supports continuity and delivery of priorities.

Resolution 2 – relates to member subscription. This proposal financial planning.

Resolution 3 (special resolution) – EGM threshold. Currently only 1,000 members required to call an EGM. This proposal seeks to improve representation and the recommendations of the KPMG Governance review and Carr Report. Members will be asked to vote for a 5% threshold, with an option for 2.5%. Council also wishes to provide a secure system to submit petitions.

Discussion

The Council member stated that she would be pleased to attend any branch meeting to support understanding of the resolutions and encourage members to vote. More information will be on the website. The AGM will also be raised at reps training, so they are aware.

4. Staffing for Safe and Effective Care Update
- 4.1 This item was taken under the Confidential Session.
5. National Care Service
- 5.1 This item was taken under the Confidential Session.
6. Nursing & Midwifery Taskforce
- 6.1 Colin Poolman, Director spoke to this item. The RCN had demanded the Scottish Government set up a taskforce to address the current and long-standing issues

within nursing. The Board had met with the previous Cabinet Secretary who had then gone on to agree to a taskforce.

- 6.2 The next meeting of the Taskforce will focus on developing the Terms of Reference. There will be a co-Chair for each of the workstreams. RCNS will be chairing two of the four groups.
- 6.3 The CNO is now supportive of the Taskforce. The Board noted that the Review of Agenda for Change and the Taskforce will put a considerable strain on the capacity of the Nursing Directorate within civil service.
- 6.4 The Director hoped that a reference group would be set up to support the work.

7. Scotland Reps Conference 2023

- 7.1 Allan Wallace, Professional Learning & Development Lead. The first in-person reps conference since the pandemic is scheduled for 2 & 3 November 2023. The programme will include sessions on equality & inclusion; safe staffing; well-being; organising. A draft programme will be produced in due course. A Short-life-working-Group has been set up. The event will be promoted shortly. The new reps programme is available on the on-line learning website.

Discussion

Running the event in person was welcomed. The Board noted there will be a UK reps meeting in October.

8. Nurse of the Year Award

- 8.1 Carol Harris, Communications and Public Affairs Manager spoke to this item. The arrangements are in place. The nominees are hugely enthusiastic about the event.
- 8.2 Joanne Noble, L&D and Membership Administrator gave an overview of the event. Seven sponsors have supported the event including, Anderson Strathern, The Sunday Post and a number of Health Boards. Approximately 260 people will be attending with all nominees except one able to attend. The evening will be hosted by Sean Battey, Weather Presenter, STV. The role of the Board on the night is to speak to the nominees and to the sponsors. The Board noted the programme for the evening and the accommodation details.

9. Council Update

- 9.1 The Board noted the update.

10. Trade Union Committee Report

- 10.1 The TU Committee representative spoke to this item. The Board noted that there is still a vacancy on the Committee for a representative from the North West. The Committee met in March with Council and also the PN Committee. There was a further meeting in May to discuss the 5-year strategy. The next meeting is a

special meeting on 5 June 2023 to review the strike benefits.

11. Professional Nursing Committee Report

- 11.1 The PN Committee representative updated the Board. Nursing Matters podcast is planned and suggestions for items for discussion were requested from the Board. The 2023 workstreams were considered including the RCN Nursing for Excellence Institute. There were also discussions regarding nursing associates.

12. Student Committee Report

- 12.1 Sian Kiely, Knowledge and Research Manager, spoke to this item. It was noted that the current Student Committee members were unable to attend the Board meeting but were very keen to be engaged with the Board. Both Committee members attended Congress.

13. Nursing Support Worker Committee Report

- 13.1 The report was noted.

14. Board members' Reports

- 14.1 Annex 21 was raised in relation to Forth Valley, and the Board were asked if other health boards were engaged with this. It was noted that Annex 21 will be part of the Agenda for Change Review. The application of Annex 21 was an issue in some areas, despite the guidance being national. It was noted that Lothian Board have agreed that back pay will be paid. It was agreed that it is important to raise this issue within Boards as well as at STAC.

15. Any Other business

- 15.1 Concern was raised regarding mental health education with some universities not meeting their targets. There has been some criticism regarding mental health nursing education. And concern was raised regarding the misquoting of RCN. Board members were encouraged to send any such information to the Communications team.

End of the Open Session.