

## **South West Regional Board**

### **Regional Board update from meeting on 21 May 2020**

#### **Board Elections**

Two branches are due for election this year: Greater Bristol and Wiltshire. Nominations will open later this year.

#### **Pay**

Awaiting further information on the pay deal, our Council member Geoffrey Walker updated that the RCN are pushing for the best possible deal and will liaise fully with our members prior to any agreement.

#### **RCN South West Office**

Is closed and all staff remote working. This has not had any effect on service provided to our members as it is business as usual. There is no imminent return, so if members wish to contact the office they should do so in the normal way, via RCND on 0345 772 6100.

#### **Safe Staffing Campaign**

National campaign plans have changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the regional collaborative team will support the focus on the new aims. Specifically, local activity involves continuing to seek MP engagement and supporting members to raise concerns about safe and effective care and to build on the Clap for Carers to maintain and build public awareness of the contribution of nursing staff.

#### **Overseas Nurses**

The board discussed the concern they had regarding NHS charge for overseas nurses. Board Chair Nettie Jones was going to draft a letter to support the withdrawal of this surcharge. Since the meeting, the Government had withdrawn the surcharge for overseas nurses.

#### **Branch Funds/Plans 2020**

Tony Aspinall, Regional Service Manager, updated the board that most branch plans are now having to be reviewed due to COVID-19 and that all face-to-face training has now been postponed.

Branches cannot transfer any funds for 2020 to 2021, so should look at alternative proposals for the Board funds to support their members locally.

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The Regional Board will discuss budgets for branches at the September meeting.

Next meeting: 21 September 2020