

## RCN Wales Board

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Minutes of the open meeting held on 14 February 2025

| Present                  | Position   |
|--------------------------|--|
| Jackie Davies            | Chair, RCN Wales Board / Wales member on the Trade Union Committee |
| Mark Crothers            | Vice Chair, RCN Wales Board  |
| Dr Carolyn Middleton     | Wales member on Professional Nursing Committee                     |
| Alison Magor             | Board member   |
| Anne Stevenson           | Board member   |
| Arniel Bautista Hernando | Board member   |
| Cath Jones               | Board member   |
| Julie Green              | Board member   |
| Lynne Puckett            | Board member   |
| Omobola Akinade          | Board member   |
| Rhian Smith              | Board member   |
| Suma John                | Board member   |
| Susan Williams           | Board member   |
| Apologies                |  |
| Richard Hughes           | Board member   |
| Sandy Harding            | Associate Director of Nursing (Professional Practice)              |
| In attendance            |  |
| Helen Whyley             | Executive Director, RCN Wales                                      |
| Nicky Hughes             | Associate Director of Nursing (Employment Relations)               |
| Helen Carlyon            | Finance & Business Continuity Manager                              |
| Katie Branch             | Quality & Events Manager   |
| Natalie Zara             | Executive Director of Governance                                   |
| Heather Searle           | Executive Assistant to the Executive Director                      |

### 1. WELCOME

#### 1.1. Apologies for Absence

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the Open session.

Apologies had been received from Board member Richard Hughes. Apologies also received from the Associate Director of Nursing (Professional Practice).

The Chair also welcomed Rachel Hadland, Education and Lifelong Learning Adviser as an observer to the meeting.

A reminder of the RCN Respect Charter was provided.

## 1.2. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared.

## 2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS

### 2.1 Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes of the Board meeting held on 20 September 2024 had been circulated and were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

### 2.2 Review of Action Sheet

All actions were either noted as completed or updated on the action sheet.

### 2.3 Matters Arising

There were no further matters arising.

## 3. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### 3.1 RCN Wales Board Chair's Report

A report had been received and was noted.

The Board Chair reminded the Board the paper outlines all the sub-groups of RCN Wales Board and where there are vacancies.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

### 3.2 Executive Director, RCN Wales Report

A report had been received and was noted.

The Executive Director took the Board through the report and highlighted the following:

- At the meeting with Director General for Health and Social Services Judith Paget, the Welsh Government workforce implementation plan

was discussed as a number of activities have not been completed. This group has now ceased and whilst there is the possibility of a new group being formed, nothing has been set up yet.

- A meeting was held with Rhys Roberts, the new head of the All-Wales nurse staffing programme. This has moved from Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW) to NHS Executive. These meetings will continue periodically.
- Attended the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) Summit in Ottawa as keynote speaker on the staffing law in Wales.

### 3.3 Social Partnership Council

A report had been received and was noted.

The Executive Director advised the Board the paper provides information to understand the Social Partnership Council and its role. It is still forming but has value and recently there was a special meeting following the Cardiff University announcement.

### 3.4 Correspondence report

A report had been received and was noted.

The Executive Director reminded the Board that correspondence is available to view by contacting the Executive Director's office.

### 3.5 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

The Executive Director verbally updated on the progression of the strategy. At UK level a programme board of staff has been formed to oversee the implementation of the strategy which the Executive Director sits on. The EDI Committee has also been formed with members and a Chair will be appointed imminently.

A further paper will come to Board this year to show the structure and commitments of the EDI strategy.

### 3.6 Corridor Care Campaign

A report had been received and was noted.

The Policy, Parliamentary & Public Affairs Manager, joined the meeting and highlighted the following:

- There is a high amount of activity in this area across RCN Wales. An online event for activists is taking place this month and there is a toolkit to assist with raising concerns. Health and Safety representatives have been carrying out inspections.
- The UK RCN report on corridor care, to which the RCN Wales Policy, Parliamentary and Public Affairs team contributed significantly, was recently launched and has since been quoted in the Senedd. RCN Wales has also developed a Welsh policy report to assist in influencing Senedd members.
- Joint actions with BMA Cymru are being worked through.
- The Conservative party are holding an opposition debate in the Senedd about corridor care on the back of the RCN report.
- The member survey on datix forms highlighted many members being told not to complete a form and when one is completed, no response is forthcoming.

Board discussed this issue at length and commented on the lack of data and reporting around onboarding onto wards, how long patients are in chairs and the true figures are being hidden. The true extent of the problem extends far beyond just the emergency departments.

Board commented that the RCN campaign is high profile and is being talked about widely and gaining momentum. Many staff though are still not completing datix forms as afraid of getting into trouble with managers or because corridor care is normalised.

### 3.7 Policy, Parliamentary & Public Affairs Impact Report

A report had been received and was noted.

The Policy, Parliamentary & Public Affairs Manager, joined the meeting and highlighted the following:

- The Board are asked for any views on the planned activities, consultations and committee inquiries listed in the paper.
- The report outlines the main influencing activities and outcomes of RCN Wales in the period since the last Board and any relevant public, political and policy developments that have occurred. It also outlines the influencing priorities of the team for the immediate future. The annex shows when the RCN has been mentioned in parliament.
- The Learning Disability paper will be launched in April.

- Plans are underway for the Welsh Conservative and Welsh Labour party conferences.

The Board commented that the *Nursing in Numbers* publication is presented extremely well and illustrates where money is spent and where it is lacking. The Board were reminded that hardcopies are available.

#### 4. STRATEGIC UPDATES

##### 4.1 NHS Wales Partnership Forum

A report had been received and was noted.

The Associate Director (Employment Relations) took the Board through the paper and the following was highlighted:

- The Welsh Partnership Forum (WPF) is how unions, workforce directors and Welsh Government work together in social partnership. The Business Committee sits underneath the WPF to review and update policies. The agenda from the last meeting in November 2024 can be seen in Appendix A.
- Jeremy Miles Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services attended the meeting to provide an update and answer any questions. The group were updated on the creation of the Ministerial Advisory Group for Performance, and a full report is expected in the spring of 2025 on NHS performance.
- Judith Paget, Director General for Health and Social Services advised of concerns over the uptake of the flu jab this year and asked trade unions to remind members of the importance of getting vaccinated.

The Board were reminded that Board members can observe Welsh Partnership Forum and if interested to contact the Associate Director of Nursing (Employment Relations).

##### 4.2 RCN Wales Nurse of the Year

The Quality and Events Manager spoke to the paper and the following was highlighted:

- The launch of the 2025 awards will take place in April 2025, after which on-line nominations will once again be sought for all awards categories via the RCN Wales website.
- Sponsorship for the awards is being sought and five are confirmed.

- In 2025, the RCN Wales headquarters – Tŷ Maeth will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary and this will be acknowledged as part of the RCN Wales Nurse of the Year ceremony.
- Board members were asked for up to three members to join the RCN Wales Nurse of the Year Board Reference Group and names were supplied.

## 5. ITEMS TO NOTE

### 5.1 Report from RCN Council meetings held in October 2024

The report had been received and noted.

### 5.2 Report from Trade Union Committee meetings in July, September and November 2024

The report had been received and noted.

### 5.3 Report from Professional Nursing Committee meetings held in September and November 2024

The reports had been received and noted.

### 5.4 Report from UK Reps Committee meetings held in October 2024

The reports had been received and noted.

### 5.5 Report from Student Committee meeting held in December 2024

The report had been received and noted.

## 6. EDUCATION COMMISSIONING NUMBERS

Ian Mathieson, Director of Education Strategy and Transformation and Martin Riley, Deputy Director, Education, Commissioning and Quality from HEIW joined RCN Wales Board.

A presentation was given to the Board outlining the process of determining commissioning numbers.

7. NURSE OF THE YEAR 2023

Tara Rees, RCN Wales Nurse of the year 2023 joined RCN Wales Board to talk about the experience of winning Nurse of the year.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 RCN Fellow Crystal Oldman is retiring from the Queen's Nursing Institute.

ACTION – A letter will be sent on behalf of the Board to RCN Fellow Crystal Oldman.

The Chair closed the open session at 1pm.