



## Professional Nursing Committee Report to Members – May 2024

1. This report reflects work done by the Professional Nursing Committee since the last report and an update from our meeting on 15 May 2024.
2. Since we last met, we have attended RCN Congress at the ICC in Wales. I am delighted that all members of PNC were able to attend to listen to the debates alongside Council and our colleagues on the Trade Union Committee, and we look forward to the deliberations and decisions of Council on workstreams arising from these debates.
3. PNC members further attended many of the Learning and Wellbeing events at Congress to hear further from members with regards to several of our key workstreams.
4. I was delighted to be able to Chair the Mona Grey lecture, where Professor Jane Ball gave an exceptional presentation “making the value of nursing evident – the role of research evidence and ratios”.
5. The report of our 15 May meeting follows.

### Chair's Update

6. Under this item we noted our approval by email of a request from the Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing to become the [Trauma and Orthopaedic Nursing Forum](#). This now brings all the forums into alignment as there are no longer any called a society which previously caused confusion as it suggested they were separate to the other forums and not part of the RCN.
7. I updated the Committee on progress with the review of our terms of reference as part of the ongoing review of the RCN Scheme of Delegation. We noted that further discussion will take place after the July meeting of Council.
8. I fed back to the Committee following my attendance at the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) General Assembly in Brussels in April and subsequently wrote a [blog](#) about my experience. We noted that our Vice Chair, Colin Baker, will also shortly be attending the European Public Service Union (EPSU) annual Congress taking place in June in Bucharest, Romania.

9. Additionally, I was delighted to chair the session with the [Secretary of State for Health and Social Care](#) at RCN HQ on 10 April for members to share their views on the current challenges facing the nursing profession.

#### Corridor Care

10. We welcomed previous Committee member and PNC lead on corridor care, Sally Young, back to our meeting to provide an update on the work taking place to address the increased normalisation of corridor care in all its many forms. Sally has remained involved in this work since her term on the Committee came to an end in December 2023.

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21. The programme is intended for nurses and midwives, with wider relevance to the nursing workforce, to improve awareness, knowledge and skills around research processes, methods and considerations.
22. Under this item we also received an update on issues relating to students including the review into nursing and midwifery students' practice learning requirements across the UK announced by the NMC in January.
23. We also discussed again our concerns regarding the decline in student nurse numbers and consequential impact on universities given that we are now hearing reports that universities are being forced to offer their educators voluntary redundancy despite the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan committing to doubling student numbers by 2030. This was subsequently highlighted at Congress.
24. We recognise the need for significant investment in nursing education over the coming years and will be discussing this further at a joint workshop taking place with the Students Committee on 17 July.

#### Committee Work Programme 2024

25. Following discussion at our last meeting on our key workstreams for 2024 we discussed progress to align our work programme to the development of matrix working across the College and Institute.
26. We also discussed progress to date against each of the workstreams not featuring separately on our agenda and reviewed the PNC risk register.

#### RCN Position on Nursing Associates

27. Following discussion at the meeting in March and also at the joint Professional Nursing/ Trade Union Committee



## UK Staffing for Safe and Effective Care (SSEC)

34. Following the international safe staffing summit in December and the second summit that took place in March, we looked forward to the next event taking place on 20 May which provided the 4 country CNOs with the opportunity to present and share their country approaches, developments, and achievements in relation to safe staffing.
35. I co-chaired the first meeting of the SSEC UK Ratios Steering Group on 22 May. This will be one of the three key workstreams of the 'safe staffing' programme, alongside coro

## Committee Membership 2024

Rachel Hollis (Yorkshire and the Humber – CHAIR)

Colin Baker (South West – VICE CHAIR)

Oladunni Akinbulumo (North West)

Alisha Brown (Student)

Aquiline Chivinge (East Midlands)

Mary Codling (South East)

Tracie Culpitt (Nursing Support Worker)

Donna Gallagher (Northern Ireland)

Martha Gill (Scotland)

Tim Grace (Northern)

Sonia Henry (London)

Raymond McMorrow (West Midlands)

Carolyn Middleton (Wales)

Alison Paterson (Eastern)

Apologies for the May meeting were received from Alisha Brown, Martha Gill, Tim Grace and Carolyn Middleton.

## Staff Attendance

Professor Nicola Ranger (Chief Nurse)

Lynn Woolsey (Deputy Chief Nurse)