

RCN Wales Board

Minutes of the open meeting held on 10 May 2024 commencing at 9am.
The meeting was held in person and via Teams.

Present

Steve Watson

Dr Carolyn Middleton

Alison Magor

Anne Stevenson

Catherine Jones

Lynne Puckett

Mark Crothers

Richard Hughes

Susan Williams

Position

Vice Chair / Council member for Wales

Wales member on Professional Nursing
Committee

Board member

Board member

Board member

Board member

Board member -

Board member -

Board member

Apologies

Jacquelin Davies

Chair, RCN Wales Board / Wales member on
the Trade Union Committee

Euan Hails

Board member

Gaynor Jones

Board member

Kokila Swamynathan

Board member

Nicola Milligan

Board member

Helen Whyley

Executive Director, RCN Wales

1. WELCOME

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The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the Open session.

Apologies had been received from Board members, Jackie Davies, Euan Hails, Gaynor Jones, Kokila Swamynathan and Nicola Milligan. The Executive Director also gave apologies due to speaking at the Betsi Cadwaladr health board conference.

The Vice Chair welcomed Collette Sutton and Dave Parry as observers for

3.2 Executive Director, RCN Wales Report

A report had been received and was noted.

In the absence of the Executive Director, the Associate Director of Nursing (Employment Relations) took the Board through the report and highlighted the following:

At the meeting with the Director General, NHS Wales, the Executive Director requested an update on the NHS Executive. The Board was asked whether this would be suitable for the Board development session in September.

ACTION - An update on the NHS Executive will be arranged for the September Board meeting or development session.

Meetings with Executive Directors of Nursing and Heads of Schools of Nursing continue.

Visits to hospitals have been undertaken to Bronllys Hospital, Prince Charles Hospital, University Hospital of Wales and Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

At the National Emergency Department Measurement Review Task Group meeting, the Executive Director was given access to the dashboard for the emergency streams.

A concern was raised by the Board regarding whether patient information

Suzanne Rankin has agreed to chair the Nurse of the Year Congress event. Suzanne was asked due to the current Wales Nurse of the year working in Cardiff and Vale health board.

3.4 Policy, Parliamentary & Public Affairs Impact Report

A report had been received and was noted.

The Policy, Parliamentary & Public Affairs Officer, 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 next meeting of the Welsh Parliamentary Cross-Party Group on Nursing & Midwifery will take place on 21st May 2024 with a focus on ventilation in healthcare environments. This will look at what has been learnt through Covid and how to apply this to public health.
- Work is being undertaken for parliamentary action with regards corridor care. There will be a short window between now and the general election and then another prior to the Wales Senedd elections to carry out any action for maximum impact.

Following an enquiry from the Board, it was confirmed the Welsh Labour conference will be held in July in Llandudno and Plaid Cymru in Swansea in September.

The Board agreed the recommendations in the paper.

4. STRATEGIC UPDATES

4.1 Activism Academy

George Woods, Associate Director for the Activism Academy joined the meeting and gave a presentation. The following was highlighted:

- The Board were invited to comment and share views throughout the presentation. The Associate Director for the Activism Academy will be collating comments from all RCN Boards.

- The Activism Academy is also a brand and has brought together the organising team and the Activist learning and development team.
- There is work to be done to engage with the vast number of members who do not currently engage with the RCN. There are many ways to be active with differing levels of commitment. The Board were invited to share what currently works well in Wales and what the priorities for engaging members currently are.

The Board shared examples of the learning and development offered to members in Wales and the work of representatives and branches. Current priorities include speaking to members about the non-pay elements and encouraging a more organising model amongst the membership.

- The Activism Academy are already working on plans to treble the number of representatives, particularly for health and safety as numbers are low. Forums will also be reviewed. The Board were invited to discuss what other priorities the Academy should focus on.

The Board advised more information on the different ways to be active would be helpful to the membership. There is a lot of focus on becoming a representative but there are many other ways. Central support for branches would be welcomed. The organising model to be embedded across the membership. Ongoing training for existing representatives, not just when they first join. More engagement with the independent sector membership.

- Members and staff have been completing surveys to provide the Academy with information. Currently the team is collating these and will be used to help shape the Activism strategy by the end of 2024.
- Work is already being done with regards existing representatives. The objective is to provide a high-quality learning and development and

ACTION – Board to decide on a new date for the sponsored dog walks to raise money for the scholarship funds.

4.4 RCN Wales Nurse of the Year 2024

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

The Board asked about sustainability and it was confirmed that the venue has certificates for sustainability and will have reusable water bottles and a commitment to reduce printed materials.

4.6 Independent Health and Social Care report

The Associate Director of Nursing (Professional Practice) spoke to the paper and the following highlighted:

- The library in a box has launched and feedback is positive and there are plans to roll this out across Wales. The boxes also include information about joining the RCN and provides a way of engaging with members outside the NHS.
- A roundtable discussion was held on the theme of Leadership at Nuffield Health, Vale Hospital.
- Visits are planned across Wales for Care Home open week in June.
- In Northern Ireland a new network has been set up that links into the forum. In Wales, members do not always join forums and a similar network is being planned to ensure the Welsh perspective is included.
- An RCN Congress IHSC Learning and Wellbeing event was approved

RCN Wales are involved
in the planning and delivery of this event.

The Chair expressed thanks for all the work carried out by the team.

5. ITEMS TO NOTE

5.1 Reports from RCN Council meetings held on 28 November and 18 December 2023

The reports had been received and noted.

The Council member for Wales advised that work is being done to improve the turnaround of the Council updates.

The General Secretary and Chief Executive vacancy has now been advertised.

The Board had no questions or comments.

5.2 Report from the Professional Nursing Committee held on 1 February 2024

The report had been received and noted.

The Professional Nursing Committee member for Wales highlighted the following:

- There have been several joint meetings with the Trade Union Committee. The group had a session about the development of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion strategy.
- The committee have been briefed on the pay spine consultation and will be providing a response. It was felt that Agenda for Change does not serve nursing well any longer and compared to other professions, progression from band 5 to 6 is very difficult.
- A work programme has been set out for 2024 which aligns with the nursing department work.
- The RCN research strategy will be launched at Congress.
- The RCN position on nurse substitution and definitions of nursing are completed and are going live shortly. This has taken some time but important to get this right.
- A Forum and Network review is ongoing and leadership for forum chairs is in development.
- In England there is a band 4 role in midwifery but not in Wales. There will be work on this but currently the position in Wales is that the registered nursing associate role excludes midwifery.

Following an enquiry from the Board, it was confirmed that the nursing workforce standards sit with the Trade Union Committee. The Associate Director of Nursing (Professional Practice) confirmed the number of champions in Wales has increased and include eight in the independent sector. A review of the standards will be undertaken later this year.

5.3 Report from the Trade Union Committee held on 5 January 2024

A report had been received and was noted.

The Board had no further comments or questions.

5.4 Report from the UK Reps Committee meetings held in February 2024

The reports had been received and noted.

The Board had no further comments or questions.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 6.1 The Board were advised the Wales representative on the Learning Committee has resigned.
- 6.2 The Chair confirmed the sponsored dog walk will be moved to September.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:00.