

RCN Forum Annual Report 2022

Forum Name: Women's Health

Introduction:

The Women's Health (WH) forum covers a wide range of conditions and complements the work of other forums enabling plenty of opportunities for collaborative work. We aim to provide women's health nursing expertise to the RCN and help shape national policy. All forum activities align with the RCN strategy, including working across the UK, taking account of the particular requirements in each of the devolved countries.

Membership of the forum

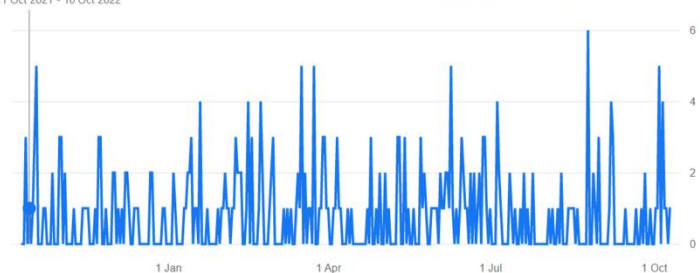
Total forum number: 5621 an increase of 72 members in 12 months. Social media engagement has also increased, Twitter 1516 followers (from 1,219 followers last year) Facebook over 1261 members (from 1,216 members last year) of whom 970 have actively engaged with the group during the course of the year.

963 active members 
11 Oct 2021 - 10 Oct 2022



294 posts 

11 Oct 2021 - 10 Oct 2022



Committee membership – no vacancies

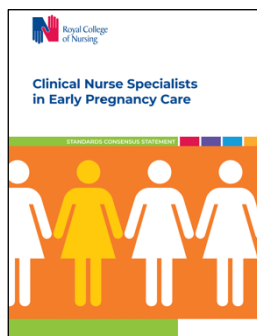
Katharine Gale (Chair), Ruth Bailey (Deputy Chair), Ellie Stewart, Deb Panes, Michael Nevill, Katharine Christopher and Charlotte Deakin. The Forum would also like to thank RCN Fellows, Debby Holloway and Wendy Norton for their continued and valued work and support of the WH agenda at and beyond the RCN. With the departure of Ellie Stewart and Deb Panes at the end of 2022, the forum successfully recruited to all the vacancies.

Supporting the Forum:

Carmel Bagness, Professional Lead for Midwifery and Women's Health

Nicola Mills, Project Coordinator & Ciaran O'Donoghue & Vitina Marsala whilst Nicola is on secondment

Achievements in 2022: (Outputs and outcomes)



- Publication of ‘Clinical Nurse Specialists in Early Pregnancy Care - Standards Consensus Statement’ **to launch December 2022**
- Updated our forum charter comment on gender, equality, diversity and inclusivity
- Publications are now updated and live on RCN <https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/forums/womens-health-forum>
 - Promoting Menstrual wellbeing
 - Menopause and Mental Health
 - Nursing Specialist in Menopause
- Raising awareness of the Women’s Health
 - Committee attendance at Congress in Glasgow
 - Engaged in Congress AGM
 - Held a learning event on Menopause
 - Contributed to the World Café – Promoting the work of the Professional Forums
 - Submitted two emergency agenda items for consideration whilst at congress
 - Responding to members’ queries on career pathways and specialist training
 - Presenting
 - RCNi menopause events
 - Presenting on Nursing and menopause in the workplace
 - Chaired and presented on supporting patients with the menopause
 - Conferences
 - Associations of Early Pregnancy Units Conference presenting our publication of the Clinical Nurse Specialists in Early Pregnancy Care - Standards Consensus Statement
 - RCN Essex branch on Stigma around women’s health
 - Hospice in East Sussex, on menopause in the workplace
 - Articles in nursing journals
 - Endo CNS Interviewed for International Nurses’ Day
 - Menopause symptoms and treatments
 - Identifying and supporting women and girls at risk of violence and abuse
 - Comments submitted and published on
 - Menopause leave to improve retention
 - Period Poverty and access to period products
 - Menopause and uniforms
 - Brain fog
 - Response to APPG Menopause report
 - RCN Blogs on Women’s Health
 - Cervical screening
 - Early pregnancy care
 - Endometriosis
 - Termination of pregnancy

Representations, Contribution to Consultations & Policy development

- Strategy day and regular forum teleconferences were held throughout the year.
- Hosted the Clinical Leadership in Women's Health Network for gynaecology matrons
- Presented at the Forum Induction day
- Engagement in the RCN Forum Chair Committee meetings
- Engagement in the RCN Fair Pay and Staff Staffing activity
- Observed the Forum Governance Group Meeting

Active representation at

- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG)
 - Abortion taskforce
 - Clinical Quality Assurance Group
- Faculty of Sexual Health & Reproductive Health
 - Stakeholder meetings
 - Submitted a response to the Progesterone only pill consultation
 - Attendance at the launch of the new Hatfield vision for the FRSH
- NHS England Improvement - Menopause programme clinical reference group
- Female Genital Mutilation Stakeholder Group
- Contributed to the development of DHSC guidance hymenoplasty and virginity testing
- NHSE Menopause Reference Group
- Presenting at Developing a Women's Health Strategy conference with Westminster insights
- Attended the Hologic Roundtable on Heavy Menstrual Bleeding
- Attending the Parliamentary Menstrual health roundtable
- Coproducing the Women and Girls Quality Statement for Wales with the Welsh Coalition

- Contribution to All Party-Political Groups
 - Menopause
 - Menstrual Health Coalition
 - Women's Health Cross Party Group for Wales
 - Sexual and Reproductive health

Current Plans for 2023

- Continuing work on the Women's Mental Health and Trauma informed care project
- Gynaecology Advanced Nurse Practitioner competency framework
- Updating the Termination of Pregnancy Guidance
- Clinical pages for inclusivity to be developed further in 2023
- Webinar on Women's health strategy
- 2022 Postponed Women's health conference on supporting vulnerable groups
- RCN Menopause Policy
- RCN Wales menopause online event
- RCN Women's Health App
- Representation at the Congress 2023

Prepared by: Katharine Gale

Date: 23rd November 2022