

Key messages from the RCN Northern Ireland Board meeting

23 May 2022

- 1 The Board agreed and signed off the minutes as an accurate reflection of the previous NI Board meeting held on 21 February 2022 and also the minutes of the extraordinary board meeting held on 21 March 2022.
- 2 The Board Chair confirmed an introductory meeting with the new Permanent Secretary, Mr Peter May and the RCN N. Ireland Board Chair, Director and Chief Nursing Officer, Ms Maria McIlgorm would take place on 30 May 2022.
- 3 A verbal update was received on the RCN nurses day events throughout Northern Ireland. It was agreed that a sub-committee of the Board would be established to steer the planning of future significant events across the RCN branches.
- 4 The Board agreed that it was important to maximise the use of social media to highlight and promote the RCN NI Nurse of the Year Awards to be held in the Culloden Hotel on Thursday 16 June 2022
- 5 The Board agreed to invite RCN Fellows in Northern Ireland to attend a future Board meeting.
- 6 The Board received a verbal briefing on the ongoing RCN Fair Pay and Safe Staffing campaign. An extensive discussion was held on the implication for pay arising from the failure to form an Executive. Next steps on the RCN pay campaign were agreed.
- 7 The Board agreed that supporting members through job evaluation processes will remain a key priority as part of the RCN Fair Pay and Safe Staffing pay campaign.
- 8 The Board Chair provided a verbal update to Board members on the RCN Property review Task and Finish Group.
- 9 The Board received and discussed an updated and reviewed RCN Northern Ireland risk register, a performance management highlights report for the first quarter of 2022, an associated assurance framework, and an operational plan for 2022. The Board noted the revised formats for the presentation of the risk register and performance management highlights report, commending the enhanced assurance that these provide to the Board. The operational plan derives from and builds upon the priorities set out in the corresponding RCN UK operational plan, Our 2022 Ambition. This focuses upon amplifying the voice of nursing, achieving cultural change and staff enablement, and enhancing the RCN's member offer and services.

- 10 The Board Chair provided verbal updates to Board members on the [Carr Review of the culture of the RCN](#), which was due to report before the end of March 2022 but has been delayed, however Bruce Carr QC will address members at the AGM at RCN Congress on Sunday 6 June. The KPMG review of RCN governance structures, will be available to all members via the RCN website by the end of May 2022
- 11 The Board received and discussed reports from RCN branches in Northern Ireland covering the first quarter of 2022. The Board also received, noted and approved the branch plans for 2022. The Board noted that all branch committee members had been invited to a virtual Branch support session on 13 June 2022 at 10am.
- 12 The Board received a verbal update on developments related to the allegations of the abuse of patients at Muckamore Abbey Hospital, including the related public inquiry. Verbal updates were also received on the Urology inquiry, Neurology inquiry and the reopening of the Hyponatremia inquest.
- 13 The Board received a verbal update on plans to develop a Prince of Wales cadet scheme jointly with the RCN Wales and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.
- 14 The Board received a brief verbal update on the current RCN Northern Ireland office closure. It was reiterated that 17 Windsor Avenue will be fully re-opened for staff and member access as soon as this is facilitated under Northern Ireland Executive guidance. The library is now open to members from 10am – 4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- 15 The Board received a verbal report on current policy consultation activity, on [1] introduction of minimum unit pricing of alcohol [2] review of urgent and emergency care, [3] the reform of adult social care.
- 16 The Board received and noted a verbal update on issues relating to the independent sector and GP Federation employed community nurses. It also received written updates on the work of the RCN Trade Union Committee, Professional Nursing Committee and Reps Committee.
- 17 The Board received a verbal update on the final preparations for members attending RCN Congress 2022, which will be held in Glasgow from 5 to 9 June. The NI reception which is a ticket only event, will be held on Monday 6 May 2022 at the National Piping Centre, 30-34 McPhater St, Glasgow G4 0HW.
- 18 The Board received a written update on the forthcoming RCN Board elections with nominations opening on 11 July 2022 and voting closing on 28 November 2022. A robust social media campaign will be developed to encourage nominations.
- 19 The next quarterly RCN Northern Ireland Board meeting takes place on Monday 12 September 2022.