

## Key messages from the RCN Northern Ireland Board meeting

5 December 2022

- 1 The Board discussed the report of the independent [Carr Review of the culture of the RCN](#) and the outcome of the associated recent [RCN extraordinary general meeting](#).
- 2 The Board received, noted and approved a series of governance assurance reports. These comprised: the performance highlight report for the third quarter of 2022; an updated risk register; a report on the delivery of the 2022 RCN branch operational plans; the latest quarterly report on the implementation of the Board's operational plan for 2022, and a performance management report for the third quarter of 2022. A number of matters for clarification were raised by Board members and addressed.
- 3 The Board received and discussed an update on the RCN pay campaign in Northern Ireland. This focused on: the outcome of the ballot of members in relation to strike action; the confirmation of forthcoming strike dates on 15 and 20 December 2022 and the various formal notifications of these dates; arrangements for derogating certain services during the strike action; and a report on recent meetings with the main political parties in Northern Ireland in relation to pay and workforce issues.
- 4 The Board received, noted and discussed a briefing on various public inquiries in relation to health care issues in Northern Ireland. This briefing covered allegations of the abuse of patients at Muckamore Abbey Hospital, Southern Health and Social Care Trust urology services, and the now concluded hyponatraemia public inquiry.
- 5 The Director provided an extensive verbal briefing on progress towards delivering the safe staffing framework published by the Department of Health in 2020. This update embraced: the development of safe staffing legislation; the Delivering Care policy framework; the budget for post-registration nursing education; and pay progression (as highlighted in the report of the Nursing and Midwifery Task Group).
- 6 The Board received and discussed reports from the RCN branches in Northern Ireland covering the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022.
- 7 The Board received and noted updates on the current RCN Board election process, current consultation responses, issues related to nursing staff working within the independent sector and GP practices, and the Prince of Wales cadet scheme.
- 8 The Board received, discussed, amended and agreed a paper detailing ways to enhance the support of and communication with RCN networks in Northern Ireland.
- 9 The next Board meeting takes place on Monday 20 February 2022. The interim Board Chair thanked all retiring Board members at the end of their terms of office and also thanked Fiona Adair for her service to the Board in advance of her retirement.