

RCN Scotland Board briefing from 14 May 2020 meeting

The meeting was held via video and teleconference

The Chair welcomed the Board members and RCN President, Anne-Marie Rafferty to the meeting. The Director gave an overview of the **RCN Scotland Performance report** for the last quarter (January – March 2020). Significant work was undertaken on feeding back to Scottish Government on the draft guidance for the implementation of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act. The Scottish Government has now put the guidance development and implementation plans on hold and at this time there is no indicative timetable for implementation. The pandemic was the focus for most of March with many of our other plans being put on hold which allowed the team to focus on continuing to provide support members as staff moved to home working.

Board election constraints were agreed which followed the model that it had agreed in 2018. The model will be reviewed again after this round of elections. The Board noted the timetable for the elections: nominations open on 20 July 2020, close on 4 September, with voting opening on 29 October and closing on 26 November. The Board is keen to encourage members from a wide range of backgrounds and workplaces to be nominated. Details will be available on the RCN website in the coming weeks.

Covid-19 Response: There have been a significant amount of work done on this issue of PPE. Members across Scotland have raised issues, including the reuse of single use visors. Reuse does not follow guidelines and any request to re-use/sterilise visors should be raised by members through appropriate channels and with their local Officer informed. It was confirmed that there were good stocks of visors and more have been ordered.

There have also been significant changes for students. RCN insisted that any change from placement to working should be a matter of student choice. It was noted that the Learning Reps events were cancelled in response to the pandemic and it will be several months before more face-to-face events will be held. Work in supporting our HCSW colleagues is progressing and there has been positive liaison work done with the HCSW Council member. A number of HCSW members have been contacted directly to offer support. It was noted that contacting HCSW members in the independent sector was a challenge. Following feedback from members on their support requirements, bite-sized virtual learning opportunities are being developed to support HCSWs.

The numbers of individuals with covid-19 in the care home sector is significant. The Board noted that the RCN had, very early in the pandemic, raised the issue of shortage of testing kits and PPE. A Clinical Professional Advisory Group has recently been set up and Eileen McKenna, Associate Director represents the RCN on this Group. This group focuses on all clinical professional issues relating to care homes. Theresa Fyffe, Director, has a seat on the Care Home Rapid Action Group which was set up by the Scottish Government following significant pressure from the RCN. This group is an overview and scrutiny group monitoring progress and developing new actions.

Geoff Earl, Council member, provided the **Council update:** it had been agreed by Council that the AGM will be held within the 15 months' timescale set out in law. It was recognised that it might be a virtual meeting and options are being investigated. Guidance had been issued regarding Board and Committee meetings to help support decision-making during this challenging time. The independent Governance Review report had been received by Council and the recommendations will be



implemented. Council meets regularly with the Executive Team who are very responsive to issues raised by members.

The next Board meeting will be held on **Thursday 10 September 2020**.

Ends.

18 May 2020