

RCN Scotland Board meeting 18 February 2021: Branch Briefing

Dear Colleagues

We held a very successful RCN Scotland Board meeting via videoconference on the 18 February 2021. This was my first meeting as your new Chair of Board and alongside Martin MacGregor, as Vice-Chair; working with our other elected Board members – we come together as a Board fully committed to nursing across Scotland.

I was delighted with the helpful discussion on a wide range of topics. That discussion was underpinned by the current environment of the pandemic that we all continue to work within; as well as importantly looking to the future and the opportunities ahead.

Thank you for all your support and please do get in touch with the RCN Scotland team if you have any queries or suggestions for me or them. Susan Aitkenhead has now also started in post as the new Director and I know that she is really keen to meet and hear from everyone. I would also encourage you to get in touch with Susan, whether just to introduce yourself and say hello – or invite her to a Branch meeting.

I hope the update here is helpful, and I look forward to working with you.

Best Wishes

Julie

Julie Lamberth
Chair, RCN Scotland Board



Branch Plans for 2021

The Board agreed that in light of the current pandemic and the toll that it has taken on members; it would be helpful this year to concentrate on supporting members' health and well-being as a collective theme across all Branches.

It was also recognised that not all Boards might have the capacity to run such events. Therefore, to help with this, the central team will provide a suite of options for virtual workshops that Branches can use as they feel appropriate if they wish. (see list circulated with this document)

This in no way affects those Branches who do have the capacity or their own ideas and innovations to run events or produce products to support this; and as usual Branches can submit applications for funding to do so.

Jen Underwood (Jennifer.Underwood@rcn.org.uk) is keen to help and discuss the various options; as is Sue Timmins (sue.timmins@rcn.org.uk) who can advise regarding applications for branch funding.

The Board also agreed that it was particularly important to celebrate nursing and the days such as Nurses Day and Nursing Support Worker Day should also be recognised.

Branches are encouraged to consider these options and to begin planning their events.

Staffing for Safe and Effective Care

Susan Aitkenhead, RCN Scotland Director is now chairing the Staffing for Safe and Effective Care UK Programme Board which was held on 17 February 2021. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to consider any updates to this work in the context of the pandemic, and particularly any lessons learnt, and opportunities and risks going forward.

The key fact that nursing is a safety critical profession and the direct link between staff having the time to care and positive patient outcomes also forms a key part of our upcoming election manifesto; as does the vital need to continue with the implementation of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act.

SenseMaker®

The Board was given a presentation on the extremely helpful information being gathered where RCN Scotland can now monitor in real-time the feedback coming in from nurses, students and Health Care Support Workers who are sharing their stories.

SenseMaker® is a tool used to collect, describe, visualise, and help make sense of the lived experience of nurses in Scotland during a global pandemic and beyond.

We are also sharing stories to help make change. Some difficult issues highlighted by a group of student nurses from one university were given to the Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Education for Scotland and the university involved. This led to a meeting between all to help resolve some of the negative experiences this group of students was reporting.

The Board has requested that members are encouraged to contribute their stories to SenseMaker® which can be accessed at:

<https://collector.sensemaker-suite.com/?projectID=2020NursesScotland&language=en#Collector>

Reps Learning and Development Pathways and Reps Conference

The Board heard that last year's virtually run courses were successfully attended by 48 reps on either the foundation module, or module 2 in 2020.

Planning for the 2021 Reps Conference is underway, and Board members from Highland, Dumfries and Galloway, Lothian and Grampian & Orkney branches agreed to sit on the short-life working group that will develop the plan for the reps conference in November 2021.

2021 Scottish Parliament Election campaign

Elections to the Scottish Parliament take place on Thursday 6 May 2021 and RCN Scotland's campaign will be launched on 25 February.

Hustings will be held with the key health spokespeople and will be open to members across Scotland – further details to follow.

Campaign materials are being prepared to send to activists and the RCN Scotland team will be in touch very soon.

Council update

RCN Council has now moved to monthly Council meetings. Due to the ongoing pace and huge amount of activity that continues to take place during the pandemic, additional fortnightly catchups with the Executive Team are also taking place.

Dave Dawes, Chair of RCN Council, has also instituted virtual 'town hall' meetings where members can ask Council about matters that are important to them. Information on future meetings is available here: <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/uk-monthly-town-hall-with-members-010221>

Next RCN Scotland Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on **Thursday 27 May 2020**.

[End]