

RCN Wales Board

Minutes of the open meeting held on 7 February 2020, at RCN Wales Board Headquarters, Ty Maeth, Cardiff

Present:

Denise Llewellyn, MBE, FRCN	RCN Wales Board Chair / Member of the RCN Professional Nursing Committee
Alison Magor	Board member – <i>arrived at 09:45</i>
Ann Taylor Griffiths	Board member
Billy Nichols	Board member
Prof Donna Mead, OBE, CSt.J, FRCN	Board member
Gareth Howells	Board member
Jackie Davies	Member of the Trade Union Committee
Prof Dame June Clark, DBE, FRCN	Board member
Kate Parry	Board member
Neil Evans	Board member
Nicola Milligan	Board member
Richard Jones, MBE	Council member for Wales / Vice Chair of both RCN Wales Board and RCN Council
Sandra Robinson-Clark	Board member
Tristan Griffin	Board member – <i>arrived at 09:35</i>

In attendance:

Helen Whyley	Director, RCN Wales
Nicky Hughes	Associate Director of Nursing (Employment Relations)
Nigel Downes	Associate Director (Professional Practice)
Katie Branch	Complaints, Quality and Administration Services Manager
Lisa Turnbull	Policy and Public Affairs Adviser
Jayne Taylor	EA to Director, RCN Wales

Apologies:

Moira Davies	Board member
Helen Carlyon	Finance & Business Continuity Manager

Observers:

Aysima Harper
George Cade

Judith Benbow

Paul Cutler

Policy and Public Affairs Assistant
Welsh Representative on the UK Students
Committee

PhD Student / RCN Wales Research
Fellow – for item WB.20.09.2

Representative from the Centre for Public
Scrutiny

WB.20.06.1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the Open Session.

Independent Review of RCN Governance Arrangements

The Board Chair gave a special welcome to Paul Cutler, Centre for Public Scrutiny. The Board was reminded that Council had commissioned an independent review of the current RCN governance arrangements and decision-making processes to ensure the RCN delivers on its Royal Charter and Trade Union objects as effectively as possible. A copy of the terms of reference for the independent review had been circulated to Board members in advance of the Board meeting.

Betsi Cadwaladr Lecture

The Board Chair congratulated RCN Wales on organising a very successful Betsi Cadwaladr Lecture on 6 February 2020 and thanked Board member, Donna Mead for chairing this event. The Board noted that Jean Saunders, RCN Wales Nurse of the Year winner 2019 gave the Betsi Cadwaladr lecture and Bryan Wilson, Vice President of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, spoke on his life and career as a nurse and RCN member.

The Board Chair asked that letters of thanks be sent to Donna Mead, Jean Saunders and Bryan Wilson.

RCN Wales Board Development Session

The Board Chair thanked the following presenters at the Board Development session on 6 February 2020:

- Dolores McCormick, Independent Health and Social Care Strategy Programme Lead for giving a presentation on “*Developing an RCN Independent Health and Social Care Sector Strategy*”.
- Lisa Turnbull, Policy and Public Affairs Adviser for giving a presentation on “*Funding Wales*”.

The Board Chair welcomed the following observers:

- Aysima Harper, Policy and Public Affairs Assistant
- George Cade, Welsh Representative on the UK Students Committee

The Board noted that apologies had been received from the Board member Moira Davies and staff member Helen Carlyon, Finance and Business Continuity Manager.

Letters of thanks to be sent to Donna Mead, Jean Saunders and Bryan Wilson for their part in the Betsi Cadwaladr Lecture. (Action 1)

WB.20.06.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Board Chair asked Board members to declare any possible interests with any items on the agenda and no further items were declared to those declared in the Closed session of Board on 6 February 2020.

WB.20.07.1 MINUTES

Minutes of the Open session of the Board meeting held on 13 December 2019 had been circulated and were confirmed as accurate with the following exception:

WB.19.56.1 RCN Foundation Wales Committee Update

The Board gave special thanks to Sian Thomas, RCN Wales Nurse of the Year winner 2016 for supporting the RCN Foundation walk on 29 September 2020 but the Board's appreciation of Sian had not been noted.

WB.20.07.2 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

All actions were either noted as completed or an update provided on the action sheet.

WB.20.07.3 MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising were noted as follows:

Study Day on Care Homes

A concern had been raised at the September 2019 Board meeting that the RCN Foundation had emailed members inviting them to attend an

RCN Foundation Care Home Summit on 23 September 2019 in RCN headquarters for which travel would not be funded.

The Chair of the RCN Foundation Wales Committee had raised this with the Trustees and asked them to consider developing a policy whereby travel could be funded for Advisers to attend certain events.

The Board was informed that the Trustees wish to ensure that there is more 4-country representation at their study centre events and that advisers will be able to apply for funding to attend future events but that individuals would not be permitted to apply for this funding more than twice.

The Board requested an update on the RCN Foundation Care Home Summit that was held on 23 September 2019.

An update on the RCN Foundation Care Home Summit that was held on 23 September 2019 to be circulated to Board members. (Action 2)

There were no further matters arising.

WB.20.08 OPERATIONAL UPDATES

WB.20.08.1 BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

A report had been received and was noted.

An error was noted on page 3 of the report in that Nicola Milligan had not attended the Overview and Scrutiny panel on 9 January 2020 but had teleconferenced into the meeting.

It was agreed that the reports of individual Board members' activities should include their attendance at RCN Wales Board meetings.

The Board Chair asked Board members to keep a record of events attended in their role as Board members and to forward this information to the Director's office quarterly.

Board members to keep a record of events attended in their role as Board members and to forward this information to the Director's office quarterly. (Action 3)

WB.20.08.2 DIRECTOR, RCN WALES' REPORT

A report had been received and was noted.

The Director highlighted the following meetings at the request of Board members:

– ***The National Primary Care Board – 12 December 2019***

The Director has a seat on the National Primary Care Board which is looking at patient flow and access to services.

– ***Welsh Government Clinical Summit - 8 January 2020***

The Director outlined that the Welsh Government Clinical Summit that took place on 8 January 2020 discussed the pressures in the NHS, the resilience of the emergency care system, effectiveness of winter plans and concerns regarding ambulance handover.

Dr Andrew Goodall, Director General/NHS Wales Chief Executive set out a number of short-term and medium-term measures which were agreed at the summit. RCN Wales will respond calling for further extension of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 and a robust workforce strategy. The priority for RCN Wales is to listen to our members and decide how best to support them during these difficult times.

The Board noted there was a need to gather information about the experiences of NHS staff and that this could be done via the RCN Wales membership survey.

The Board noted that The RCN Emergency Care Association (ECA) was undertaking a survey in England to gather information from NHS members but that this had not been sent out in Wales as the terminology used in both countries was not the same and could skew any results.

The Director informed the Board that an NHS Wales Partnership Forum Sub Group is looking at the health and wellbeing of staff. This work is being led by James Moore, Assistant Director of OD, Health Education and Improvement Wales and the RCN is involved. The Board noted that a paper on Health and Wellbeing of NHS staff will come to the May Board.

The Board acknowledged that there were winter pressure concerns throughout Wales. The Director informed the Board that RCN Wales is drafting a suite of information tools that will enable and support activists to raise issues of concern at a local and national level.

The Board Chair asked that the concerns around winter pressures be added to the agenda for the Director's meeting with the Minister and for the topic to be discussed at the next Representatives Support and Development Network (RSDN).

The Board Chair also requested that this be added to the agenda for the May Board.

– ***Meetings with Directors of Nursing and Universities in Wales***

The Director informed the Board that key discussions had taken place with Directors of Nursing and Universities in Wales regarding celebrations for 2020 International Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

The Director has also discussed the importance of the RCN being given the opportunity to meet new students at student recruitment events with Deans of Schools.

– ***RCN Wales All Staff Meeting – 21 January 2020***

The Board was informed that Jean Saunders, 2019 Nurse of the Year winner, had addressed an all staff meeting on 21 January 2020, which was well received by staff.

– ***The Welsh NHS Confederation Conference - 5 February 2020***

The Director attended the Welsh NHS Confederation Conference – Working Together for a Healthier Wales on 5 February 2020. The Minister for Health and Social Services spoke at the conference but did not mention the Welsh Government’s Workforce Strategy.

The Board noted an omission from the report in that it should have included a meeting that the Director had with NHS staff from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board on 22 November 2019 to discuss concerns raised about the proposed rota system.

Report on the NHS Wales Partnership Forum Sub Group on Health and Wellbeing of NHS staff to be submitted to the May Board. (Action 4)

Concerns around winter pressures be added to the agenda for the Director’s meeting with the Minister. (Action 5)

Concerns around winter pressures be added to the agenda for the Representatives Support and Development Network (RSDN). (Action 6)

Concerns around winter pressures be added to the agenda for the May Board. (Action 7)

Board report to be amended to include that the Director met with NHS staff from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board on 22 November 2020 to discuss concerns raised about the proposed rota system. (Action 8)

WB.20.08.3 RCN WALES NURSE OF THE YEAR AND ALUMNI NETWORK UPDATE

The Director gave a verbal update as follows:

- Feedback from 2019 RCN Wales Nurse of the Year Awards ceremony has been extremely positive. Board members were urged to submit any ideas for the 2020 ceremony to the Director's office.
- The 2019 winners of the RCN Wales Nurse of the Year awards are being encouraged to tell their stories so that they can be published.
- The launch of the 2020 RCN Wales Nurse of the Year Awards will be held in Swansea Bay University Health Board in April but the date has not yet been agreed.
- The RCN Wales Nurse of the Year Alumni fireside chat given by Professor Jean White, Chief Nursing Officer for Wales on 28 November 2019 had been very successful.
- The RCN Wales Alumni Network members are invited to contribute to consultations on an ongoing basis and to attend RCN Wales political activities/events.

A request was made for paragraph 3.2 on page 3 of the report to be amended to, "*All **registered** nurses and midwives who practice in Wales, pre-registration **nursing students** and health care support workers can be nominated for an award.*"

The Board thanked the Complaints, Quality and Administration Services Manager and staff for their hard work in organising these awards.

The Board Chair urged Board members to encourage their colleagues to submit nominations for these awards.

The Board queried if there would be a Care of the Older People's award in 2020. The Board was informed that a potential new sponsor had been identified and it was hoped that this award could be included in the 2020 awards.

The Board queried if individual awards could be made for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities as they are very separate areas of nursing.

The Board was informed that all suggestions would be considered by the RCN Wales Nurse of the Year Project Group but was reminded of the need to be mindful of the practicalities and financial implications.

Board members were urged to submit any ideas for the 2020 RCN Wales Nurse of the Year ceremony to the Director. (Action 9)

Paragraph 3.2 on page 3 of the report to be amended to read, “*All registered nurses and midwives who practice in Wales, pre-registration nursing students and health care support workers can be nominated for an award.*” (Action 10)

Board members to encourage their colleagues to submit nominations for these awards. (Action 11)

The RCN Wales Nurse of the Year Project Group to consider suggestions/requests made by the Board. (Action 12)

WB.20.08.4 POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT

A report had been received and was noted.

The Policy & Public Affairs Adviser gave an update as follows:

- The Board’s attention was drawn to the Assembly Impact Report attached in appendix A.
- RCN Wales has had significant success in working with the Royal College of Practitioners and the British Medical Association to gain support from Assembly Members to the suggestion that the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Bill should be amended to make specific provisions for workforce planning. This work is ongoing.
- RCN Wales is to hold a meeting with Prison Nurses shortly and Board member, Billy Nichols is due to attend. The Board will receive an update on this meeting in the Policy and Public Affairs report in May 2020.
- The Board noted the significant issues with Prison Nurses having access to continuous professional development and discrepancies and variations in funding and facilities between prisons.
- The Board noted that Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board would shortly take over responsibility for the super prison in North Wales but that the date for this to take place has not been confirmed.
- RCN Wales hopes to have a high profile at all three main political party conferences in Wales and will seek to influence their respective manifestos for the Assembly elections in 2021.
- A membership survey will be undertaken in February/March 2020 which will inform the development of the RCN Wales 2021 manifesto campaign. It was noted that a good response rate to this survey increases the credibility of what RCN Wales advocates.

- The RCN Wales Election campaign and the Safe and Effective Care campaign will be combined. The focus of the RCN Wales campaign in 2020 will be to influence the manifestos of the main political parties in Wales. In 2021, the year of the Assembly elections, the focus will move to member engagement.
- Places are still available on the Political Leadership Programme on 20/21 April 2020. Board members were asked to contact the Policy and Public Affairs Assistant to book their places.

The Board noted that the National Health Service (Indemnities) (Wales) Bill has been passed by the National Assembly for Wales and is awaiting Royal Assent. The Policy and Public Affairs Adviser informed the Board that the intention of this Bill is to equalise the indemnity arrangements for Wales with those of England. RCN Wales is supportive of this Bill.

The Board Chair asked that the RCN Wales manifesto should encourage AMs to consider where they would like to be with regards to Health by the end of the next term in 2026.

Education Policy

The Board was reminded that at the December 2019 Board meeting, a query had been raised as to how the RCN will fulfil its Charter objective of having an educational institution. The Director had informed the Board that RCN UK was in the process of developing the RCN Group UK Education, Learning and Development Strategy 2021-2026.

The Board was informed that this work is being led by Susan Masters, Director of Nursing, Policy and Practice and that an organisational structure had been developed consisting of an RCN Council Task and Finish Board, a Programme Board and an Operational Group with four workstreams delivering on specific pieces of work to feed into the strategy. A governance and reporting structure has also been agreed and the Executive team has signed off the terms of reference. The Board noted the timeline for this work as follows:

- February – April 2020 - Drafting initial consultation paper
- May – June 2020 - Consultation events will be held around the UK
- 1 October 2020 - Presentation to RCN Council for approval
- 16 December 2020 - Launch of final ELD Strategy

Board member Gareth Howells informed the Board that the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales has asked him to lead on Community Nursing on an All-Wales basis. Having declared an interest in this item, he left the Board meeting at this point.

Community Nursing Debate

It was noted that under 2.6 of the report several references were made to the difficulty in gathering evidence-based workforce data for nurses working in the community. Board member, Alison Magor, had provided the Board with an overview of the data available for District Nurses via the Nursing Dashboard in the Closed session and the Board was advised that this information would be available to Welsh Government.

The Director informed the Board that RCN Wales had called for further research and for an audit to be undertaken on workforce data in community nursing with the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Director General/NHS Chief Executive and the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales.

The Board to receive an update on the Prison Nursing meeting in the Policy and Public Affairs report in May 2020. (Action 13)

Board member Gareth Howells returned to the Board Meeting.

WB.20.08.5 RCN WALES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FUNDRIASING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Director gave a verbal update as follows:

- The Trustees of both the Alun Islwyn Giles Memorial Scholarship and the Hettie C Hopkins Care of the Elderly Scholarship had met on 1 September 2019 and had agreed to make awards from both scholarships in 2020.
- The call for both scholarships applications was advertised via social media and on the RCN Wales website from 1 February 2020.
- The closing date for applications is 31 March 2020.
- Board members were urged to encourage members to submit applications for both scholarships.

Board members to encourage members to submit applications to both scholarship funds by the closing date of 31 March 2020. (Action 14)

WB.20.08.6 RCN MEMBER CONSULTATION ON THE TIMING OF THE AGM

The Board had received a paper on the RCN member consultation on the timing of the AGM. The Board noted that the deadline for providing feedback was 31 March 2020.

The Board considered the following consultation question:

Do you think the AGM should still be held in Congress week, or whether it should be held as a separate event bearing in mind that, because of the financial year, it would need to be held before the end of June?

The Board discussed this consultation and feedback during the discussion was noted as follows:

- It is difficult for the AGM to be quorate if it is not held at Congress and there was poor turnout prior to it being held at Congress.
- It does not disrupt Congress providing it is held before or after Congress.
- A query was raised as to the reasons for the reduction in attendance figures from 2018 to 2019, as detailed in the consultation paper.
- Concern was expressed that paper does not provide enough information to make an informed decision.
- The consultation question is leading and the Board did not understand the need to link the financial year with the AGM within the question.
- Concern was expressed that participation at Congress is not representative of the membership but is biased towards the Trade Union arm of the RCN.
- There was some support for holding two annual events for an organisation the size of the RCN and one event should be held in the Autumn to reflect both the Professional arm of the RCN. The AGM could be held at that event.
- Concerns were raised with holding the AGM in 2020 on a Sunday in Liverpool with limited train service. The Board was reminded that members are not funded to attend an AGM but some are funded to attend Congress.
- The AGM should be held as a standalone event before Congress.
- If the AGM is held at Congress, it should be held at the start as when it is in the middle of Congress, some members use it to ‘hijack’ the agenda and this takes time away from the Congress debates.
- AGM should be held in Congress to save money by not having to fund a separate event.

- Need to consider what the RCN needs to get out of the AGM and how the RCN gets “*on the front foot*”.
- AGM should be held on the Friday following Congress, to encourage members not to leave early on the Thursday.
- It would be difficult to get released from clinical duties to attend two events in a year.
- The Vice Chair was asked to raise a query at Council as to the number of proxy votes used at previous AGMs?

The consensus of the Board was that the AGM should be held at Congress either at the beginning or the end.

The Board Chair reminded Board members that they could submit their own feedback on the feedback form provided direct to Governance.

Board members were asked to submit any further comments to the Executive Assistant to the Director by 21 February 2020.

The Board Chair asked that the Board’s response to the consultation be drafted following the comments at the Board for final sign off by the Board.

Board members to submit any further comments to the Executive Assistant to the Director by 21 February 2020. (Action 15)

The Vice Chair to raise a query at Council as to the number of proxy votes used at previous AGMs? (Action 16)

Feedback from the Board to be drafted for final sign off by the Board before the deadline of 31 March 2020. (Action 17)

WB.20.08.7 REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT ADJACENT TO TY MAETH. GRANTING DEED OF EASEMENT

A report had been received and was noted.

The Director took the Board through the paper. The Director recommended for the Board to approve the approach proposed, as it would benefit RCN Wales by improving security and enabling repairs to the drive to the side of Ty Maeth to be resurfaced at no cost to the RCN.

A query was raised as to whether this paper was for information or a decision paper. The Director confirmed that the Board is being asked to approve the approach proposed by RCN Estates with regard to the redevelopment works adjacent to Ty Maeth.

The Board sought clarification as to whether it was within the gift of the Board to approve these works being undertaken. The Vice Chair stated that this was a matter for the Welsh Board.

The Board noted that RCN Estates had negotiated for the replacement boundary wooden fence to be maintained. However, the Board requested that RCN Estates ensure that the developer undertake all upkeep and repairs to the boundary.

Concern was expressed that £5,000 security deposit was not enough of an incentive to ensure the developer completes the work.

The Board requested that Richard Workman, Estates Project Manager provide the Board with a copy of the risk assessment and confirms that English law is commensurate with Welsh law in respect of these works.

Decision: The Board was content to approve the proposal once it has been given assurance that the Board has the authority to approve the proposal and has had sight of the risk assessment.

The Board to be assured that it has authority to approve the proposed works. (Action 18)

Richard Workman, Estates Project Manager to provide the Board with a copy of the risk assessment and to confirm that English law is commensurate with Welsh law in respect of these works. (Action 19)

WB.20.08.8 RCN PRINCE OF WALES NURSING CADET SCHEME

A report had been received and was noted.

The Director gave a verbal update as follows:

- This RCN Prince of Wales Nursing Cadet scheme was launched in Wales on 2 July 2019 and a second cohort has now commenced.
- Sandy Harding has been appointed as Head of the RCN Prince of Wales Nursing Cadet Scheme.
- An RCN Prince of Wales Nursing Cadet Alumni Network is being established.
- RCN Wales will give thought to how the Nursing Cadets can be included in the work of the Board going forward.

Two errors were noted on the paper as follows:

- Under 6.2 St John Cymru (Wales) has been incorrectly referred to as St John Ambulance Wales.

Concern was expressed with the paragraph at the bottom of page 7 which referred to the creation of “*an RCN placement database to expand placements to include Welsh Trusts and private healthcare settings, which will relieve the pressures on Health Boards around nursing student placement periods and seasonal pressures.*” The Board expressed the view that this would need to be coordinated with Health Education and Improvement Wales.

WB.20.08.9 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES TASK AND FINISH GROUP CONSULTATION

The Board had received a paper on the Review of Membership Categories consultation. The Board noted that the deadline for providing feedback was 1 April 2020.

The Vice Chair reminded the Board that this work came about following a resolution at Congress in 2019. The Board noted that the work is being led by Council member, Geoff Earl, who is Chair of the Membership Categories Task and Finish Group.

The Board was asked to provide feedback to the following questions:

1. *Do you agree with the key principles on page 4?*
2. *Does a single membership deliver those key principles?*
3. *Do you agree that a range of payment plans linking the amount you pay each year to salary expectations is fair?*
4. *Do you agree that all members should be able to stand and vote for the members from your Country and Region on the RCN governing Council, your local board and the professional nursing and trade union committees?*
5. *Do you agree that the President and Deputy President and Chair of Council should continue to be required to be a registered nurse?*

The Board discussed the consultation and feedback during the discussion was noted as follows:

- The paper does not provide enough information to make an informed decision.
- There are underlying implications for a single membership category. At some point there could be more Health Care Support Workers

than Registered Nurses and at that point the professional arm of the RCN would be compromised.

- There is a need to consider how it impacts all members.
- Currently, to qualify to be a member of the RCN you need to work under the direction of a registered nurse and this could include Occupational Therapists and Social Workers. What would happen to those members if these changes go ahead?
- Other unions have an income-based percentage pricing structure for their membership. Would the member still be covered by the RCN if their salary increases and they do not advise the RCN of the increase.
- Both the Trade Union and Professional Nursing Committees have commented on this consultation.

The Board Chair reminded Board members that they could submit their own feedback by completing the form provided by Governance.

Board members were asked to submit any further comments to the Executive Assistant to the Director by 21 February 2020.

The Board Chair asked that the Board's response to the consultation be drafted following the comments at the Board for final sign off by the Board.

Board members to submit any further comments to the Executive Assistant to the Director by 20 March 2020. (Action 20)

Feedback from the Board to be drafted for final sign off by the Board before the deadline of 1 April 2020. (Action 21)

WB.20.09 STRATEGIC UPDATES

WB.20.09.1 RCN WALES NURSING EDUCATION POLICY POSITION STATEMENT DRAFT FRAMEWORK

A report had been received which presented a Framework for an Education Policy Position Statement

The Policy and Public Affairs Adviser informed the Board that the position statement would be a useful tool to influence education policy and highlighted the proposed top priorities and topic areas for the paper.

The Board Chair explained that a first draft of the position statement would be drafted on the basis of the Framework with the Board's approval and this would be discussed at the next Education Roundtable

event on 23 April 2020 and then presented back to the full Board for approval.

Decision: The Board approved the draft framework for the Education Policy Position Statement.

Decision: The Board approved for a further Education Roundtable event to be held on 23 April 2020.

Further Education Roundtable event to be held on 23 April 2020. (Action 22)

Final position statement to be presented to the Board. (Action 23)

Judith Benbow, PhD Student and RCN Wales Research Fellow attended the Board for this item.

WB.20.09.2 RCN WALES NURSING PhD STUDENTSHIP

The Board received a tabled report on the PhD research study and Judith Benbow gave a verbal update as follows;

- The PhD research project is in its fifth year and is currently in the final stage of being edited.
- The project is grounded in practice.
- Judith requested an opportunity to seek the Board's views on how the findings could be used to support members.

The Director agreed to meet with Judith to facilitate how the report's findings could feed into the work of the RCN.

The Board agreed for Judith to present the report's findings Board when the PhD has been completed.

The Director to meet with Judith Benbow to facilitate how her PhD report's findings could feed into the work of the College. (Action 24)

Judith Benbow to present her findings to a future Board meeting. (Action 25)

WB.20.09.3 RCN WALES ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR

The Board had received a presentation on the development of the Independent Sector Strategy at the Board Development session on 6

February 2020 from Dolores McCormick, Independent Health and Social Care Strategy Programme Lead.

WB.20.10 ITEMS TO NOTE

WB.20.10.1 RCN FOUNDATION WALES COMMITTEE UPDATE

A report had been received and was noted.

WB.20.10.2 REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2019

A report had been circulated and was noted.

The Vice Chair gave a verbal update as follows:

- Council has received a briefing on the ongoing NHS pay issues in Northern Ireland and Guernsey.
- Council has requested further amendments to the industrial dispute handbook for Guernsey.

The Board requested an update on the strike benefit members in Northern Ireland would receive. The Director informed the Board that members can apply for strike benefit but must be able to produce payroll information to show a deduction in their pay before this is considered.

The Board to receive an update on the strike benefit for members in Northern Ireland. (Action 26)

WB.20.10.3 REPORT FROM THE TRADE UNION COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 12 AND 21 NOVEMBER, 4 DECEMBER AND 20 JANUARY 2020

A report had been circulated which was noted.

WB.20.10.4 REPORT FROM THE PROFESSIONAL NURSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2020

A report had been circulated which was noted.

WB.20.10.5 CORRESPONDENCE

A report had been circulated which was noted.

The Board was pleased to note that the following nurses and midwives had been recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours 2020:

- Polly Ferguson, MBE
- Lynne Garwood, MBE
- Martin Semple, MBE

The Board noted that a letter had been received on 16 December 2019 from Martin Riley, Head of Education, Commissioning and Quality, Health Education & Improvement Wales (HEIW) regarding the Review of Health Professional Education and Training Across Wales.

A query was raised as to when the KPMG review of health professional education and training across Wales would be published.

The Policy and Public Affairs Adviser informed the Board that this report was available and offered to circulate the report to Board members.

KPMG report of the review of health professional education and training across Wales to be circulated to Board members. (Action 27)

WB.20.10.6 RCN WALES BOARD ELECTIONS UPDATE

A report had been circulated which was noted.

WB.20.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

WB.20.11.1 RCN CONSULTATION ON UK PAY POLICY

The Board had received a tabled paper on the UK Pay Policy consultation. The Board noted that the deadline for providing feedback was 17 March 2020.

The Board was asked to respond to the following consultation question:

Do you agree that the UK pay policy provides a clear set of high level principles which will usefully inform specific RCN negotiating strategies and objectives across the UK and across all sectors?

The Director informed the Board that RCN Wales would be consulting with representatives and members at local level in order to feedback to the consultation.

The Board Chair reminded Board members that they could submit their own feedback on the feedback form provided direct to Governance.

Due to the fact that this was a tabled paper and the limited time remaining at the Board meeting, the Board Chair asked Board members to submit any comments to the Executive Assistant to the Director by 6 March 2020.

The Board Chair asked that the Board's response to the consultation be drafted following the comments at the Board for final sign off by the Board.

Board members to submit any further comments to the Executive Assistant to the Director by 6 March 2020. (Action 28)

Feedback from the Board to be drafted for final sign off by the Board before the deadline of 17 March 2020. (Action 29)

WB.20.11.2 LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Board noted that Long Service Awards are presented to RCN members that have served continuously in any combination of elected positions for over 15 years without a break in service.

The Board Chair informed the Board that in 2020 the following RCN members were eligible to receive Long Service Awards:

- Andrea Mills
- Billy Nichols
- Fiona Salter
- Liz Rees
- Neil Evans

The Board Chair was delighted to present Long Service Awards to Billy Nichols and Neil Evans at the Board meeting.

Unfortunately, Andrea Mills, Fiona Salter and Liz Rees were unable to attend the February Board meeting and a suitable event will be identified at which these awards can be presented.

A suitable event to be identified at to present Long Service Awards to Andrea Mills, Fiona Salter and Liz Rees. (Action 30)

WB.20.11.2 ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE)

The Board gave special thanks to Nigel Downes, Associate Director (Professional Practice) for his hard work and commitment on behalf of members in Wales during his seven years in working for the RCN as Primary Care and Independent Sector Adviser, Senior Officer, Interim Associate Director (Employment Relations) and Associate Director (Professional Practice).

The Board noted that Nigel would take up a post in Swansea Bay University Health Board and would leave the RCN on 31 March 2020. The Board wished him every success for the future.

There were no further items of business and the Chair closed the meeting at 12:30.

The Board noted the dates for the next Board meeting as follows:

Board Closed Session 13 May 2020 09:30 – 11:30 and 13:30 - 17:00

Board Development Session 13 May 2020 17:30 – 19:00
Venue: RCN Wales headquarters, Ty Maeth, Cardiff

Board Open Session: 14 May 2020 09:00 – 12:30
Venue: RCN Wales headquarters, Ty Maeth, Cardiff

ET: Helen Whyley, Director, RCN Wales
Email: helen.whyley@rcn.org.uk