

RCN Forum Annual Report 2022

Forum Name:

Public Health Forum

Introduction:

Short introduction about your forum

The Public Health Forum promotes the value of public health nursing, ranging from travel health, immunisation, TB, sexual health, HIV, health protection and occupational health. It is essential to promote good health and protect against ill health for individuals, communities and across the population.

We believe that all nurses, midwives, health practitioners and students should utilise the principles of public health wherever they work. We work to raise awareness, respond to consultations, provide, and support educational events, publish competency frameworks and guidance and provide a range of resources on the RCN website.

In 2022 the forum has had a busy and productive year focussing on the recovery from the global pandemic of COVID-19. This had an unprecedented impact on forum members across the four countries.

Membership of the forum

Brief summary on the forum membership, to include:

- Total number - all and first choice
- Any trends

As of November 2022, there were 13275 members and 6315 were first choice members of the forum.

Table 1- Membership of the forum

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Members	10280	10061	10076	10085	10147	13275
1 st Choice forum	4861	4861	4663	4749	4749	6315

During the year the steering committee had a full complement of members (seven) the committee members come from a range of public health areas to reflect a wide area of public health practice. One member left during the summer and two members came to the end of their term. Both places have been filled. One member has extended their term and the other will join the committee in January 2023.

The annual strategy planning meeting was held virtually on 18th February 2022. The aim is to have this in person next year in 2023. However, the catch-up meeting with the steering committee members will remain being held on Microsoft teams.

The forum also agreed to ensure all members of the committee have their profile on the forum webpage¹. This is alongside an extended list of contacts from the wider public health forum. These colleagues have particular skills and expertise and their role and biographies are also represented on the forum page. They have supported the forum and the wider public health work of the RCN with; specific projects, alliance membership to various stakeholder groups and in helping to keep the various public health related clinical topic pages up to date. It will be revised next year to reflect new members.

Reflections on 2023: (Outputs and outcomes)

From the strategy day the forum planned to deliver various projects, in line with the four Pillars of RCN Group Strategic Priorities:

- Provision of education and learning
- Setting clinical standards and supporting practice
- Active personal and workplace support
- Influencing and shaping policy

Projects:

- Travel and TB competency frameworks
- Collaboration with nurses from Australia and New Zealand to adapt the RCN Travel Health competencies for use in their practice.
- TB case management tool update
- Collaboration request from RCNi & King's College Hospital to work on a project on suicide prevention on the back of Mental Health fringe event at Congress is ongoing.

Events (including webinars) and conferences:

- APPG/WHO Webinar on malaria and neglected tropical diseases January 2022
 - RCN /NaTHNAC conference was held in May 2022
 - Partner representation on The Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine (NECTM) in the Netherlands June 2022.
This event has had initial seed funding via FGG of €8,000. The event in 2022 returned a surplus of which the RCN is receiving £3,000.
 - RCN / SOM conference
 - TB webinar for Occupational Health professionals
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- RCN representation at the Annual TB Summit

Congress 2022:

The public health forum had two resolutions: Conversion therapy, safe injecting place Two matter for discussions; health inequalities and financial hardship and staffing for safe and effective care campaign. There was also a fringe session on mental health.

The forum also participated and contributed to the world café, which was a new event led by the Forum chairs chair. It will be an on-going event.

- Ongoing updates have been done on the public health web pages; and going forward it will be the education portal
- Tracey Cooke wrote a blog following her experience of attending congress.
- Tracey also has had an article published in RcNi which was written following consultation with the History of Nursing Forum about the origins of the history of occupational health nursing?? <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/Blogs/congress-2022>
- Working on links with Faculty of OH Medicine (FOM) & AOMRC
- Had meetings with Prof Jamie Waterall Deputy Chief Nurse - Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, Department of Health & Social Care
- Tracey /Helen and Janet attended at Revitalizing the 2019 Health and Work Consensus Statement for Action Meeting

Social media

The @nurses4ph twitter handle was initiated in January 2016 and currently has 650 followers, increase from last year and follows 200 accounts. The forum continues to tweet and retweet.

Table 2- Twitter statistics

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Followers	300	363	457	552	650	701
Following	n/a	143	181	200	216	216

RCN Representation

Demonstrate how the representation by forum members has been influential

Representation at NECTM promotes collaboration with nurses globally.

Bi annual report of Public Health representation from April-September 2022



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summary - Public He

Contribution to Consultations/Policy development

Endorsements – Consensus statement on the risks of physical activity for people living with long term conditions

Plans for 2023:

Aspirations for future work

- TB webinar for wider nursing community including on BCG vaccination
- Planning – joint RCN NaTHNaC joint event 2023
- RCN Partner organisation for NECTM9 Copenhagen 2024

Date Prepared: 9th November 2022

By: Hanna Kaur, Chair – Public Health Forum

¹ <https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/forums/public-health-forum/meet-the-team>