

## RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

### Forum Name:

Public Health Forum

### Introduction:

Short introduction about your forum

The Public Health Forum promotes the value 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 2023 the forum has had a busy and productive year. The focus has shifted from the recovery after the global pandemic of COVID-19, to the cost-of-living crises.

### Membership of the forum

Summary on the forum membership, to include:

- Total number - all and first choice
- Any trends

As of October 2022, there were 9949, a slight decrease for October 2023 to 9809, 4590 members were first choice voting members.

**Table 1- Membership of the forum**

October 2022	October 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice voting members
9949	9809	4590

At the start of the year the steering committee had a full complement of members (six). The committee members come from a range of public health areas to reflect a wide area of public health practice.<sup>1</sup> One member left at the start of autumn, due to personal reasons. With already having a vacancy, this brought it to two. We received 4 applicants for 2 places, and have appointed 2 new members to join from January 2024, taking it to full establishment. There were no applications for the chair role, therefore the current chair will extend their term to another year, bringing their term end part of the committee to end in December 2024.

The annual strategy planning meeting was held virtually on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The aim is to have this in person next year during 2024. 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 webpage. 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:**

- Worked with Women's and Midwifery Forum to revise guidance on FGM for travel document.
- TB competency framework

### **Events (including webinars) and conferences:**

- Promoted RCN Travel competencies at the: ISTM conference in Basel
- RCN / SOM conference
- Public Health representation at the British Association for Paediatric TB
- Public Health representation at the Joint TB Committee
- RCN representation at the National TB Nurses & Allied Professional Conference

### **Congress 2023:**

The public health forum presented the following items:

- Matter of discussion: That this meeting of RCN Congress discusses the role of nursing in supporting members of the LGBTQ+ communities who are victims of hate crime. This was changed to a resolution and passed.
- Matter of discussion: That this meeting of RCN Congress discusses the successes and learning from the current Fair Pay for Nursing campaign. TQ+ hate crime
- Resolution: Health care success for refugees and asylum seekers: passed
- Fringe: Climate/sustainability
- Fringe: Palliative care / community (loneliness) – public health perspective
- The forum also participated and led on the organising of the world café, with the nursing department at the RCN.

### Social media





Public Health Facebook page has 765 members.


The @nurses4ph X (formerly twitter) handle was initiated in January 2016 and followers have increased to 777. The forum continues to tweet and retweet public health messages.

**Table 2- Twitter statistics**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Followers	300	363	457	552	650	701	777
Following	n/a	143	181	200	216	216	216

### RCN Representation

Area of Practice / Forum	Authorising Advisor	Member / Representor	Business Support Staff	Host of event	Date of Event	Representation Report received (yes/no)
Public Health Forum	Jess Turner	Hanna Kaur	Sandra Hall	APPG Global TB meeting	11th January 2023	Yes  Member Representation Forr
Public Health Forum	Jess Turner	Jan Sinclair	Sandra Hall	Moving Healthcare Professionals - Advisory Board - MHAP	24th January 2023	Yes
Public Health Forum	Jess Turner	Hanna Kaur	Sandra Hall	British Association for Paediatric TB (BAPT) - Hanna Kaur	7th March 2023	Yes  Member Representation Forr
Public Health Forum	Jess Turner	Belinda Loftus	Sandra Hall	UKHSA and BASHH "Syphilis Summit- Belinda Loftus	5th Sept 2023	Yes  Biannual Representation Rep
Public Health Forum	Jess Turner	Hanna Kaur	Sandra Hall	TB National Nurses & Allied Professionals Conference	29th Sept 2023	Yes  Member Representation Fee

Public Health Forum	Jess Turner	Helen Kirk, Janet Frimpong and Tracey Cooke	Sandra Hall	Joint RCN and SOM Occupational Health Nursing Conference	Friday 1 December 2023	Yes  RCN Member Representation - Re
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### Contribution to Consultations/Policy development

British Association for Paediatric TB – 1<sup>st</sup> Guidance

### Plans for 2024:

Aspirations for future work

- 7<sup>th</sup> joint event with NaTHNaC is confirmed for Saturday 23 March 2024
- TB webinar for wider nursing community including on BCG vaccination
- Complete review on TB case management tool

Date Prepared: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

By: Hanna Kaur, Chair – Public Health Forum

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