

Key Messages of the Closed Session of the meeting held on 3rd September 2021

Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Carmel O'Boyle (Chair)	Board Member
Mark Anthony (Vice Chair)	Board Member
Joshua Gilroy	Board Member
Sally Young	Professional Committee
Andrea Willimott	Board Member
Alan Finnegan	Board Member
Sharon Mason	Board Member
Zoe Ahearne	Board Member
Jill Lloyd	Board Administrator
Estephanie Dunn	Board Secretary
In attendance:	
Kelly Dooley	Communications Manager
Gaynor Bradley	Learning and Development Facilitator

Apologies	
Paul Wood	Operational Manager
Stephen Wenham	Board Member
Lauren Mawson	Board Member
Roshanak Valizadeh	Board Member
Mike Travis	Trade Union Committee

Key Messages - North West Board meeting on 3rd September 2021

UK Learning and Development Pathway for RCN Representatives

The UK L&D Pathway for RCN representatives has been successfully reaccredited by Open College Network following the annual external quality review.

This year's reaccreditation felt particularly meaningful as OCN were reviewing the work of learners and L&D Facilitators (LDFs) as we adapted to the unfolding COVID-19 crisis and transitioned from face-to-face to online facilitated learning. Despite a turnaround of just 3 months, the L&DI team invested 2260 hours (322 days) in redesigning the pathway for the move to online.

The OCN report has provided the L&DI team with some suggested areas for improvement or development. These will be taken forward as part of the current

UK Curriculum Review exercise being undertaken by UK staff and reps using a co-creation approach.

Education Learning and Development Strategy

Highlights of activity since June 2021 on the ELD Strategy were shared with members of the Board. The Regional Professional Lead for Learning and Development will link to the board members to discuss and develop the Key Performance Indicators.

Isle of Man Branch Update

Despite concerted efforts from the Senior Officer, Mary-Anne Parkinson, the IOM Branch still only has one person willing to take on an executive role. Mary-Anne and Matthew Beattie, Branch Chair, are therefore managing the day to day running of the Branch. Covid restrictions have and still do limit activity and visits to the island. Carmel O'Boyle, in her capacity of Board Chair, will visit once restrictions are lifted and travel is allowed.

The IOM pay offer is still no further on since the Board submitted a paper to the Trade Union Committee in July. No formal offer has yet been received from Manx Care, only a verbal offer of 1%.

Congress 2021

Following the decision by Congress to move to an all-virtual platform the Board raised concerns around voting members being able to make practical arrangements at home or in some other suitable location at such short notice. Also, the impact from a healthy working perspective of expecting voting members to sit for 3 full days in front of a screen was discussed. It was felt that this had not been risk assessed. Concerns to be escalated.

Operational Manager Post

A temporary move for Paul Wood, Operational Manager, who has secured a 4-month fixed term opportunity as Regional Director for Northern, and Yorkshire and Humber Regions was announced. We are seeking to back fill his post and are looking internally across the RCN.

Board Funding

Board funding was reviewed, and money is still available for branches to make bids for. Branches are reminded that bids need to be made in a timely manner to

ensure they can be approved before December's deadline. All goods must be invoiced for, and monies pay by 31st December 2021. After this date the money will be returned to the centre. Bidding forms can be requested from jill.lloyd@rcn.org.uk

Communications Update

A communications update was received from Kelly Dooley, Communications Manager for the Region. A highlight to note is the continuation of the monthly online engagement sessions which are open to all North West members. The events have given members an opportunity to ask questions about how we can best support them, to voice their queries around pay and how the RCN pay campaign relates to them; the staffing for safe and effective care campaign or any questions relating to nursing, as well as any matters they feel need addressing by the RCN. During care home week, the session focused on the independent sector. We opened up the event in August to members of the public and those who work in the nursing community who are not in membership to discuss the Fair Pay For Nursing campaign. The sessions are attended by Regional Director Estephanie Dunn as well as members of the Board and some of our regional committee members, and guest speakers.

There are also an exciting range of events planned for Autumn including the annual Black History Month conference, International Nurses: Global to Local and a Student Webinar - How to get the Best out of Your Practice Placement.

Further information is available on the events section of the NW website <https://www.rcn.org.uk/northwest/northwest-events>

Pay Ballot Update

A Summer of Action was launched for the period of the ballot and this is a series of events taking place up and down the country. An interactive map of events for nursing staff to protest against the 3% NHS pay award has been launched.

In the North West we have a host of exciting plans including numerous engagement events for members, reps and the general public, workplace information stands and a number of branches are engaging in a silent protest on 8 September with a protest arranged for Crosby Beach and Blackpool Tower.

The outcome of the ballot will determine the next steps in the campaign.

Independent Review into RCN's Culture

The Board was informed that Pat Cullen, General Secretary & Chief Executive, had confirmed that there would be an independent review into the culture of the RCN.

The independent review, led by Bruce Carr QC will now scrutinise the RCN's:

- decision-making and accountability;
- financial management;
- equality and inclusion;
- management of departure of staff and elected members;
- allegations of sexual harassment;
- roles and responsibilities of staff and elected members.

Bruce Carr QC has a long career history, is highly-respected in the field of employment law and has expertise in relation to trade unions.

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