

**Royal College of Nursing South-West Regional Board**

**Minutes of Meeting held on  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Open Minutes**

**In Attendance**

Jaydee Swarbrick	Vice Chair, Dorset Branch
Margaret North	Cornwall Branch
Nick Browning	Wiltshire Branch
Vicky Brotherton	Plymouth Branch
Cheryl Angco	Independent Sector
Leonore Newson	Plymouth Branch
Katy Welsh	Student Committee
Ali Purkiss	Devon Branch
Judith Barry	Somerset Branch
Charlotte Jakab-Hall	Gloucestershire Branch
Carly Boyce	PN Committee
Steve Dunne-Howells	Bath Branch

**Staff in Attendance**

Lucy Muchina	Regional Director
Steven Pulsford	RCN, Operational Manager
Tony Aspinall	Regional Service Manager & Board Administrator
Vicky Lander	Regional Administrator & Board Minute Taker
Nicola Clarkson	RCN L&D Facilitator

**Guests**

Matthew Stewart / Gloucester

**Apologies**

Jeanette Jones	Board Chair, Greater Bristol Branch
Geoffrey Walker	Council Member
Jeni Watts	TU Committee Member
Alison Dean	

<p><b>Item 1.</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b>  <i>Jeanette Jones, Board Chair – South-West Region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JS welcomed everyone and will be covering this open session until JJ returns from the England Board meeting.</li> <li>• JS went through the apologies as noted above.</li> <li>• VB unable to join the start of this meeting. VB joined 13:27.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 2.</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes and actions from the previous meeting</b>  <i>Chair, Jeanette Jones</i></p> <p><b>2.1 To agree accuracy of the minutes – all ok</b></p> <p><b>2.2 To review the actions from the last meeting – none</b></p> <p><b>2.3 Matters arising not covered by the agenda – none</b></p>
<p><b>Item 3.</b></p>	<p><b>Key messages from closed session of the board meeting</b>  <i>Chair, Jeanette Jones</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on pay.</li> <li>• Thank members for taking time to vote. And also, the top 10 votes from our region.</li> <li>• RCN moving to face-to-face meetings. LM to manage expectations / hybrid/ starting to think about engagement.</li> <li>• Ops plan agreed and board agreed unanimous in favour for this, and members of the board volunteered to assist in areas of plan.</li> <li>• Board vacancies and encouraging people to apply.</li> <li>• Next board meeting is 16<sup>th</sup> June.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 4.</b></p>	<p><b>Items to declare under Any Other Business</b>  <i>Chair, Jeanette Jones</i></p> <p>JS – wanted to share about Dorset care homes plans.</p>
<p><b>Item 5.</b></p>	<p><b>Decision and Discussion Items</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Branch Plans/Board Funding 2022</b>  <i>All Board Members</i></p> <p>TA went straight to finance page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Branch plans received from 7/9 branches.</li> <li>• Added 25% additional funding from 2021, which makes a total of £19,634.00.</li> <li>• TA will email out to the board members the new amounts stated next week.</li> <li>• TA gave board options for way a forward regarding how to divide the funds.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LN – happy to keep figures as they are, and how already divided out.</li> <li>• JJ asked for vote to agree keep funds as they are and discuss on next board.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 6.</b></p>	<p><b>Consultation Items</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>Item 7.</b></p>	<p><b>Communications</b>  <i>Tracey Roberts, Communications Manager</i></p> <p><b>7.1 – Pay</b> was completed within the closed session.</p> <p><b>7.2 Communications Report</b></p> <p>TR asked if any questions on her report.(no questions for TR). TR welcomed feedback on the report and offered the group to make suggestions for what they would like within the report and happy with current contents.</p> <p><b>7.2 Safe Staffing / SSEC</b></p> <p>JS – Presented the slides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and social care bill going through parliament.</li> <li>• Report is going to the professional nursing committee.</li> <li>• Safe Staffing is top priority but pay also needs to align with SSEC as well now.</li> <li>• Safe and effective care remains the highest concern.</li> <li>• Regional activity and influencing crucial is to members.</li> <li>• Three points 1. How can we shine a light and make staffing issues visible. 2. Where can we influence. 3. What else can do.</li> </ul> <p>TR – Gave updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HH / TR - Attended SSEC meeting this week.</li> <li>• TR - There has been a shift away from SSEC campaign – its below the umbrella where there are mini campaigns addressing issues locally.</li> <li>• HH - Updated there is a need to hear from members around SSEC. And intelligence suggests staff have concerns around retention of workers.</li> <li>• HH - Under the umbrella of safe staffing, its raised that everybody should be able to request flexible working. Therefore, there is now a mini regional campaign on flexible working for all.</li> <li>• TR - Noted these issues don't just sit with registered nurses, the NHS about to embark on NSW employment.</li> <li>• JJ - A task force is starting in UHBW with band 2-3 maternity leave support workers.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NB - Commented about anti-social shifts, and frustrations are around non consistency.</li> <li>• VB – There is an overuse of reps resulting in the feeling exhausted. Is there something around safe staffing champion that can assist to support to these reps/ reporting tool. And also, there is a national shortage for trained job matches and evaluators. Does the RCN offer training for job matchers? JS agrees this second suggestion would be good.</li> <li>• LM - Agrees with VB point about reps having safe staffing champions as support to members and reps.</li> <li>• TR - Suggested a reporting tool / platform where they can have a free space and also to obtain help.</li> <li>• The group discussed access for members and reps on policies and staffing.</li> <li>• Board members will liaise with branch members to see who would like to be involved within campaigns.</li> <li>• VB - Can branch members be asked to feedback to board members any safe staffing issues so they can bring back to the board group.</li> <li>• TR – Suggested to send comms / email to reps to nominate someone to sit on regional SWAT group and for them to feed through to board.</li> <li>• LM wanted to thank TR, HH, JS and for all their work on SSEC.</li> </ul> <p><b>7.3 Congress 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TA has some names from branches for board to approve to attend Congress. TS shared the names on screen who is requesting to attend.</li> <li>• Most common questions are around where members will be staying. This is to be confirmed.</li> <li>• Travel on the Sunday, this is on Queen’s Jubilee weekend. Therefore, might be some travel issues. Governance have suggested going by train. But TA is looking at flights, or if option to drive if wish too.</li> <li>• Congress is being held in Glasgow.</li> <li>• TR – There is a protentional email from John Bryant targeting England wide for attendees. This can also be done locally if needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 8.</b></p>	<p><b>Reporting Bodies</b>  <i>Task &amp; Finish Groups</i></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>Item 9.</b></p>	<p><b>Council Report</b>  <i>Geoffrey Walker, Council member Southwest Region</i></p> <p>Report attached in agenda – no questions.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JJ will write to council that not impressed by the board blog report and its new style. Group feel restricting down importance of outcomes and decisions made by councils.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 10.</b>	<p><b>Reports from Governance Committees</b>  <i>Jeni Watts, TU Committee member.</i>  <i>Carly Boyce, PN Committee member</i></p> <p><b>10.1 Trade Union Committee – no comments</b></p> <p><b>10.2 Professional Nursing Committee – no comments</b></p> <p><b>10.3 Nursing Support Workers Committee – no comments</b></p> <p><b>10.4 Students Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LN has been asked the group if aware of trusts putting band 4s into band 5 posts. LM asked if anyone else heard of this happening and if so, please let hew know so this can be looked into.</li> <li>Work progressing well on student’s handbook. And there will possibly be a joint rep’s event in October.</li> </ul> <p><b>10.5 Reps Committee - no comments</b></p>
<b>Item 11.</b>	<p><b>Items from Governance</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>Item 12.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JJ in Dorset annual care homes conference id being held 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> September. This is always good time to promote the RCN and recruit the private sector. JJ wanted to flag this but will email CA and SP as well. LM updated that either LM or and SRO could attend this.</li> <li>Board calls will be set up on the last Wednesday in each month starting March.</li> </ul>
	<b>Close of meeting: 15:45</b>
	<p><b>Date of next Board meeting:</b></p> <p>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Exeter office / Virtual MS Teams Meeting  - Tbc</p>

**Membership:** Cheryl Angco, Judith Barry, Carly Boyce, Vicky Brotherton, Nicholas Browning, Charlotte Hall, Jeanette Jones (Chair), Margaret North, Jaydee Swarbrick (Vice-Chair), Geoffrey Walker OBE and Jeni Watts