

Welsh Parliamentary Cross Party Group on Nursing & Midwifery

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2021

Meeting Venue: Tŷ Hywel, The Senedd

Meeting Date: 20 October 2021

Meeting Time: 12pm – 1pm

Attendance	<p>Jenny Rathbone, MS (Chair)</p> <p>Rhun Ap Iorwerth, MS</p> <p>Peter Fox, MS</p> <p>Ryland Doyle, Office of Mike Hedges, MS</p> <p>Charlotte Knight, Office of Jayne Bryant, MS</p> <p>Vikki Evans, Office of Jeremy Miles, MS</p> <p>Gwyneth Bird, Office of Russell George, MS</p> <p>Richard Jones, Chair RCN Wales Board</p> <p>Helen Whyley, RCN Wales Director</p> <p>Diane Powles, Associate Director (Professional Practice)</p> <p>Lisa Turnbull, Policy, Parliamentary and Public Affairs Manager</p> <p>Michelle Moseley, Education and Lifelong Learning Adviser</p> <p>Sarah Williams, Policy, Parliamentary and Public Affairs Officer</p> <p>Aysima Harper, Policy, Parliamentary and Public Affairs Assistant</p> <p>Nick Unwin, Graduate Trainee (Campaigns)</p> <p>Belinda Cook, Practice Development Facilitator in Neonatal Unit</p> <p>Helen Rogers, Director of Royal College of Midwives</p> <p>Sarah James, NHS Wales Health Collaborative</p> <p>Clare Payne, Senior Nurse Neonatal Services ABUHB</p> <p>Claire Richards, Special Care Baby Unit, ABUHB</p> <p>Jessica Hughes, Llandrindod Maternity PTHB</p> <p>Rachel Nowell, Cardiff University</p> <p>Claire Goode Payne, Neonatal Services, AHUHB</p>
Apologies	<p>Peredur Owen Griffiths, MS</p> <p>Delyth Jewell, MS</p> <p>Llyr Gruffydd, MS</p>

Item 1:

Welcome from Jenny Rathbone MS

Jenny Rathbone, MS welcomed everybody to the first Cross Party group on Midwifery and Nursing in the 6th parliamentary term. The purpose of the Group is to inform members of the Senedd of the contemporary issues of Nursing and Midwifery.

The minutes of the meetings of last year are available at the Senedd's website along with the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

This meeting was held in a hybrid format, some members were physically in the room, and some joined via MS teams.

Item 2:

Election of Chair and Secretary - This item was chaired by Richard Jones, RCN Wales Board Chair

Jenny Rathbone, MS was nominated as the new chair of the Cross-Party Group by Rhun Ap Iorwerth MS.

Russell George MS has given his apologies for the meeting but had previously expressed his support for Jenny Rathbone MS's nomination as a chair and had signed the registration papers for the group as a founding member.

Jenny Rathbone nomination was accepted unanimously by the MS present and therefore she was duly elected.

Helen Whyley, Director of RCN Wales was nominated as the secretary of the group and duly elected.

Action: The RCN Wales and office of Jenny Rathbone's office to ensure the registration documents are submitted.

Item 3:

Guest speakers:

The topic of this meeting had been previously agreed as Midwifery and Neonatal Nursing.

Jenny Rathbone, MS welcomed RCN members Michelle Moseley, RCN Wales Education and Lifelong Learning Adviser & Belinda Cook, Practice Development Facilitator in Neonatal Unit who provided some opening remarks for the discussion.

A briefing based on these opening remarks and the subsequent discussion is provided as an annex to the minutes.

The Cross-Party attendees discussed various topics relation to Midwifery & Neonatal Nursing such as;

- The impact of Covid-19.
- The need for career opportunities in Midwifery and Neonatal Nursing
- The importance of a supernumerary team leader additional to the staff caring for the babies
- Increasing support and development opportunities
- The need for a minimum percentage of registered staff for intensive & high dependency care and special care
- Sufficient knowledge, experience, and training to offer safe and effective care to babies and their families
- DBS checks across NHS Wales
- Workforce challenges, including retaining staff and progression opportunities
- Number of available beds in Neonatal Units

- Funding
- The group members expressed an interest in understanding more about neonatal services in North Wales and RCN Wales staff agreed to ensure this information was provided within the briefing.

Item 4:

Thanks from Richard Jones, Chair RCN Wales Board

Richard Jones thanked MS for taking time to attend, thanked Jenny Rathbone for taking up the role as a new chair for the Cross Party Group.

The group has always been highly valued by the RCN as it brings the opportunity to discuss nursing issues with MS.

Item 5:

Closing remarks from Jenny Rathbone MS

Jenny Rathbone MS drew the discussion to a close and gave a formal thanks to all attendees for their contribution to the meeting.

Jenny Rathbone emphasised that MS members in the group would very much welcome the briefing on these issues to inform their work and suggested that Health Visiting could be the topic for the spring Cross Party meeting. This was agreed.

Meeting closed at 1pm

Held by hybrid format in person and MS Teams

20 October 2021

Secretariat: Aysima Harper, Policy, Parliamentary and Public Affairs Assistant