

Notes of Cross Party Group on Nursing and Midwifery 2 December 2015

Present: Julie Morgan AM (Chair)
Jenny Rathbone AM
Kirsty Williams AM
Kate Parry (Vice Chair, RCN Welsh Board)
Alison Davies (Associate Director Professional Practice, RCN Wales)
Lisa Turnbull (Policy and Public Affairs Adviser, RCN Wales)
Stewart Attridge (Guest Speaker - HIV Clinical Specialist Nurse, Cardiff Royal Infirmary)
Louise Lidbury (Guest Speaker - Primary Care and Independent Sector Adviser, RCN Wales)
Ian Hulatt (Guest Speaker - Professional Lead for Mental Health, RCN Wales)
Rory Farrelly (Director of Nursing and Patient Experience, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board)
Daphne Meredith-Smith (Head of Mental Health Nursing, Cwm Taf University Health Board)
Annie Muyang (Policy and Public Affairs Assistant, RCN Wales)

Apologies: Tina Donnelly CBE (Director, RCN Wales)
Gaynor Jones (Board Chair, RCN Wales)
Peter Meredith-Smith (Associate Director Employment Relations RCN Wales)
Christine Thomas (Council Member, RCN Wales)
Annie Norman (Professional Lead Criminal Justice Nursing/Learning Disability Nursing, RCN)
Aled Roberts AM
Alun Ffred Jones AM
David Melding AM
Eluned Parrott AM
Huw Lewis AM
Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Llyr Huws Gruffydd AM
Mick Antoniw AM
Nick Ramsay AM
Peter Black AM
Simon Thomas AM
Ruth Walker (Executive Director of Nursing, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board)
Caroline Oakley (Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Hywel Dda University Health Board)
Rhiannon Jones (Assistant Director of Nursing, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board)
Sara Jones (Director of Quality and Nursing, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust)
Dr Sue Morgan (Director of Nursing, Velindre NHS Trust)
Angela Hopkins (Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board)
Carole Bell (Director of Nursing and Quality, Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee)
Sue Beacock (Nursing Officer, Welsh Government)

1. Welcome from Julie Morgan AM, Chair

Julie Morgan AM welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Opening Remarks from Lisa Turnbull, Policy and Public Affairs Adviser, RCN Wales

Lisa Turnbull discussed the main priorities of the Time to Care 2016-2026 campaign as identified by the members in Wales. She then introduced the three main topics of discussion for the meeting – mental health, sexual health and primary care.

3. Ian Hulatt – Professional Lead on Mental Health, RCN Wales

Ian began the discussion by highlighting that the landscape and narrative of mental health has changed over recent years, and that is becoming discussed more frequently in terms of public health. Ian discussed early intervention and mental health prevention, and the importance of developing resilience, mindfulness techniques, and investing in young people. He then went on to talk about how public services react to a mental health crisis, emphasising how there needs to be an appropriate level of intervention by the police and interagency working and mutual respect.

4. Stewart Attridge – HIV Clinical Nurse Specialist

Stewart began by stating that, much like mental health, sexual health is still seen as a 'taboo' topic and is not as openly talked about as it needs to be. He then entered into an informative discussion on Chlamydia testing, and the disparities in screening between England and Wales. Stewart went on to emphasise the need to encourage nurses to work in the field of sexual health and the need for the NHS to support the development of these skills and knowledge. He also highlighted the lack of any joined up IT system between sexual health clinics and GP surgeries. This results in a service which has a clinical risk and is open to abuse, as service users can access multiple community services in multiple locations. In addition to this, Stewart discussed shrinking HIV budgets and the emotional strain people who are diagnosed with HIV go through, and how support is needed.

5. Louise Lidbury – Primary Care and Independent Sector Adviser, RCN Wales

Louise voiced her concerns over Primary Care and the Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANPs) and practice nurse roles. Although GPs relied heavily on these roles for service delivery, the development of the next generation of the workforce was neglected. Nurses required a great deal of experience in primary care before they developed the competency to be a 'practice nurse'. Moreover, investment in CPD was required to develop advanced practice. Louise then went on to say that ANPs have a huge skill set which is not valued and there is a need to value practice nurses more. In addition to this, education, training and development of the role is important to tackle these issues.

6. AGM

As only two political parties were represented, Julie Morgan suggested that the AGM to be scheduled for the next cross-party group. Julie Morgan and those represent agreed that Julie Morgan could chair the next meeting and RCN Wales to give full support for the cross-party group in 2016.

7. Discussion

Following these presentations Julie Morgan AM chaired a lively discussion with participants around the three topics of discussion – mental health, sexual health, and primary care. The RCN is to supply the AM's that were present with suggested questions on these topics for the Minister.

8. Vote of thanks

Kate Parry, Vice Chair of the Welsh Board, RCN Wales, gave a formal vote of thanks to the cross-party group.