

## RCN Forum Annual Report (information guide) 2021

**Forum Name:** Children and Young People Acute Care Forum

### **Introduction:**

This forum is passionate about improving the care and experiences of all children and young people within acute and critical care. We are led by a proactive committee of experts who have considerable experience nursing children and young people in the acute and critical care setting, providing education, developing guidelines and shaping health policy. We are committed to representing your priorities within the RCN and wider organisations.

We promote this work by:

- Creating a professional pathway for all members working with infants, children and young people.
- Establishing networks to advance and promote excellence.
- Engaging members through active recruitment and retention in the field.
- Providing support and advice to members working with infants, children and young people with acute care needs
- Raising the profile of members involved in this field.
- Advocating on behalf of members.
- Listening to the views of members as they help to shape developments.

ACF is linked to the following communities:

- Children's and Neonatal Intensive Care Nurses
- Children's orthopaedic and Trauma Nurses
- Children's Urgent and Unscheduled care.

### **Membership of the forum**

Total number – 5460 all first choice. Membership levels have remained stable for some time.

Committee membership – one vacant post which was successfully filled in the recent recruitment process. We lack diverse representation: Wales 0, Scotland x 0, England x 7, Northern Ireland x 0.

### **Reflections on 2021: (Outputs and outcomes)**

#### Achievements

##### **Representation with:**

- **Children and Young People’s Nurse Academics UK** – *Dave Clarke*
- **NCEPOD transition pathways** - *Neil Fletcher*
- **NCEPOD testicular torsion** – *Katie Bagstaff*
- **Royal College of Surgeons England** – *Katie Bagstaff*
- **RCPCH emergency committee** – no representation this year, however Dan Gooding will represent us following induction.
- **Paediatric Critical Care Society** – *Carli Whittaker*
- **Neonatal Qualified in speciality higher education England** – *Beth Footit*
- **RCPCH Medical management** – *Rachael Bolland*
- **NHSei CYP Mental health task and finish group** – *Neil Fletcher*
- **NHSei CYP Mental health task and finish group Education work stream** – *Rachael Bolland and Neil Fletcher*
- **CYP stakeholder council NHS E** – *Rachael Bolland*
- **RCPCH SPOT/National PEWS** – *Rachael Bolland/ Dave Clarke*
- **NHSEI CYP obesity strategic oversight group** – *Neil Fletcher*

##### **Publications:**

- Children and Young People’s Cardiac Nursing. RCN guidance on roles, career pathways and competency development.

Update completed but held with Publications:

- Formula feeds. RCN guidance for nurses caring for infants and mothers.
- Career, education and competence framework for neonatal nursing in the UK.

Updated by steering committee, with Peta Clark:

- Standards for assessing, measuring and monitoring vital signs in infants, children and young people.

**Education:**

- RCN Children and Young people's Nursing Virtual Conference. May 2020. Chaired by Dave Clarke, presentation given by Rachael Bolland.
- Hosted Congress Fringe event: Violence in Children and Young people.

**Collaboration:**

- Collaboration with Mental health forum to discuss strategies and joint working, with a focus on CYP mental health.

**Communication with committee members and wider membership** – Forum members have active use on the Facebook RCN CYP Forums page. Twitter page is available, but activity is sporadic. This is multifactorial, however some steering group members have chosen to step back from social media in order to support their own wellbeing.

**Any other relevant information**

There have been challenges which have significantly impacted on the Forum's achievements. Firstly, there have been substantial demands on the steering group members within their substantive roles, with considerable pressures on healthcare services for children and young people. Additionally, the lack of a substantive Professional lead has left a lack of direction and involvement with wider initiatives. There were also difficulties with pressures on the publications department, resulting with delays and withdrawal of documents. Despite these challenges, the steering group have met virtually each month, although we do not always have full attendance.

**Covid-19**

As noted above, there have been significant pressure on the steering committee within their paid roles. This has meant that they have not always had the time, or energy to commit to the steering committee.

**Plans for 2022:**

The joint strategy day for Feb 2021 was cancelled, with the forum strategy day in not occurring until August 2021. We only had three steering committee members able to attend this session, and without the direction of a professional lead, we did not feel that it was possible to develop a plan for 2022 which reflected the RCN strategy. Consequently, we do not have any project bids agreed for 2022.

**Aspirations for future work:**

In addition to continuing with ongoing projects we would like to focus on:

Objective	Actions
Engage with our members, to improve diversity amongst the forum and steering committee.	Improving social media networks. Develop the role of “experts” within the forum steering committee.
To highlight the needs of CYP with mental health needs	Work collaboratively with the other Forums to highlight the issues of CYP mental health. Develop collaborative item for Congress.
To prioritise document development and updates	To work with the Professional lead to determine the relevance and usefulness of documents, to protect steering committee member time, and RCN resources.

To be confirmed and discussed at the joint CYP strategy day planned / booked provisionally for February 10<sup>th</sup> 2022.

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