

RCN Forum Annual Report 2023

Forum Name: Learning Disability Nursing Forum

Introduction

The purpose of the learning disability nursing forum is to promote and support Registered Nurses providing care and support for children, adults and older people wherever they practice.

Learning Disability Nurses and other registered nurses and nursing associates work to improve the health and well-being and the lives and social inclusion of children, adults and older people with learning disabilities wherever they may reside. All have key roles in providing assessment, treatment care, support and education for people with learning disabilities across the lifespan and supporting other professionals to deliver safe and effective person-centred care across care settings. The purpose of the Learning Disability Nursing Forum is to shape and influence national and local policies practice and education to improve the lives in the health of children adults and older people with learning disabilities and promote and enable access to all areas of education health and social care.

Membership of the forum

Brief summary on the forum membership:

- Total number of members - 4288
- Number of Facebook members- 2117
- Number of Twitter members - 1893
- The past year has again seen an increase in Forum membership
- Committee membership – There was one vacancy on the committee and 3 applications received. The three applications were interviewed, and one appointment made. The new committee member will take up the role in January 2024
- The remaining committee members have remained in place

Reflections in 2023: Outputs and Outcomes

Jonathan Beebe has continued in the role of professional advisor to the Learning Disability Nursing Forum. He has continued to support the committee in their work and implementation of the committee strategy. He has continued to develop and grow networks across the four countries of the UK..

Sandra Hall has continued as a project coordinator for the forum and the committee and provides guidance and advice to enable the committee to deliver on the strategy plan on behalf of members.

The analytics from the website data indicates healthy hits, with over 1500 achieved. The most frequent pages visited where about the members of the committee. The webpages have

been kept current and up to date.

The committee has continued to meet six weekly on-line to share and discuss developments and ensure that the strategic plan is delivered. The committee is positive and supportive of each other.

History of Learning Disability Nursing

The committee on behalf of members worked with RCN events and the library service to contribute to the delivery of the history of learning disability series. A series of online seminars and events were well received, and the exhibition is now being hosted by RCN Scotland in Edinburgh. Committee members participated in the delivery of the programme.

Congress 2023

Four learning disability nursing committee attended Congress 2023 in Brighton as voting members. An emergency resolution on the needs of people with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorder was submitted and adopted unanimously by congress. This work was led by committee member Sarah Jackson. The committee is taking forward the implementation of the resolution throughout 2023-24.

Member Consultation Events

The committee has hosted two virtual membership engagement events in October 2023. The focused on three questions to identify member issues to inform the strategic plan in 2024.

The three questions posed to members were:

1. Supporting the development of practice for the future
2. Supporting the CPD needs of members
3. Supporting the development of knowledge, standards and guidance for the future

The issues raised to date by members were discussed by the committee at the strategy day on the 6th November 2023. It was agreed that the committee will develop a strategic objective focusing on choosing learning disability nursing as a career choice.

Two further events will be held by the committee to hear about the issues for learning disability nursing students from across universities and academics.

People with learning disabilities in secure settings

Michael has met several times with Paul McAleer, chair of the Nursing in Justice and Forensic Forum to scope out the proposed publication focusing on the assessment, care and support of children, young people, adults and older adults in secure settings. The work will be led by the Nursing in Justice and Forensic Forum, and it is hoped that the publication will be completed by end of 2024 and is a strategic objective for the committee.

The committee members have continued to represent members and the Royal College of Nursing at a range of events and activities. Details provided below.

Area of Practice/Forum	Authorising Advisor	Member / Representative	Business Support Staff	Host of event	Date of Event	Representation Report received (yes/no)
Learning Disability	Jonathan Beebee	Katy Welsh	Sandra Hall	RCN Professional Career Framework meeting	17 th April	Yes
Learning Disability	Jonathan Beebee	Katy Welsh	Sandra Hall	SRG for Community Learning Disability Nursing SPQ (QNI hosting)	25 th April	Yes
Learning Disability	Jonathan Beebee	Giselle Cope	Sandra Hall	Learning Disability Nursing Shared Decision-Making Council	27 th July	Yes

RCN Representation

Promoting the role of learning disability nursing and the contributions made by learning disabilities

Contribution to Consultations and Policy development

Muckamore Abbey Hospital, Northern Ireland Public Inquiry

Plans for 2024

- Committee Strategy Day November 2024
- Member webinar engagement events 2024
- Implementation of Congress 2023 resolution
- Attend Congress 2024, ICC Wales from June 2-6, 2024
- Collaboration with the Nursing in Justice & Forensic Healthcare Forum and committee
- Scope Choose Learning Disability Nursing work plan
- Appointment of new committee chair

By: Professor Michael Brown, Chair, Learning Disability Form