

Name of Forum	Public Health Forum	Date of Report	5 October 2023
Professional Lead	Jessica Turner (Development Post)	Forum Chair	Hanna Kaur

Please provide a summary of how the forum has represented the RCN over the past 6 months and the key points for FGG to note:

April 2023– September 2023

1. UKHSA and BASHH Syphilis Summit

In September 2023 Belinda Loftus represented the RCN at The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and British Association for Sexual Health & HIV (BASHH) Syphilis Summit. Belinda is a member of the RCN public health forum and a link nurse and has a long, and established career in Sexual Health. UKHSA data showed a worrying increase in syphilis cases, with an increase in reports of late diagnoses, complex cases and concerns about severe and irreversible harm to those affected. The syphilis summit was a roundtable event with representatives from key specialties to:

- Raise awareness of the current situation for syphilis in England.
- Raise awareness of where and how cases may present and how best to manage (potential) cases.
- Agree what action needs to be taken across a range of healthcare settings and specialties.

What has been the impact or difference made as a result of the member representation?

1. UKHSA and BASHH Syphilis Summit

- This meeting was a call to arms rather than the end point and ensured there was nursing representation and will continue to be RCN engagement in this field of work.
- Attendance informed the RCN's work and clinical, now ELD, pages on sexual health.
- Updates were shared widely across relevant RCN colleagues.
- Future opportunities to facilitate the following, aimed at nurses who work in fields outside sexual health services, include, podcasts, articles in general nursing press and webinars.

Any other relevant information you would like to share with FGG?

There are currently two vacancies on the RCN public health forum, we are recruiting in October to fill these positions.