

# Activate

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**News, views and support for RCN activists**

## **Members in England send Health Secretary clear message on patient safety**

Members have delivered three supersized letters to Health Secretary Matt Hancock demanding action on the nurse staffing crisis in England. The letters, signed by thousands who attended RCN Congress in Liverpool, call on Mr Hancock to champion a law for safe staffing.

Legislation setting out who is responsible for ensuring there are enough nurses with the right skills to keep patients safe already exists in Wales and Scotland. Now members want to see a similar law in England.

Rebecca Stevens, one of those who delivered the letters to the Department of Health and Social Care, said: "Safe staffing saves lives. If we have the right number of staff, we can deliver

## No membership mandate to accept care home company pay offer

The full and final offer included:

- the statutory minimum uplift for those on the national living wage plus one penny
- an increase for assistant practitioners to £10 per hour
- an increase of 1.5% for nurses
- an increase of 1% for everyone else.

Although there are severe funding issues in the social care sector, the RCN and other unions

are not mandating acceptance of the offer.

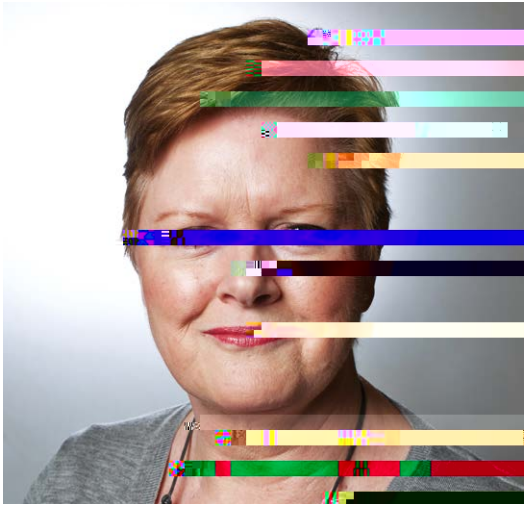
Earlier this year one of the UK's largest care home companies, Four Seasons Health Care (FSHC), negotiated its 2019/20 pay offer with the RCN, Unison and GMB.



# VIEWS

Fighting for our profession

ASK AN  
ADVISER



**Making a difference to patient care**

Sitting on an RCN forum steering committee



# FEATURE

## New supervision standards for learning reps and safety reps

**New supervision standards are being introduced to make sure that all RCN reps are given the same level of high-quality support**

The standards (see box right) mean that learning reps and safety reps will now be offered regular supervision meetings. “This may be a one-to-one or group meeting, but it will offer a chance for reps to talk about their roles, their achievements and the activities they will engage in over the next few months,” says Jonathan Bowker, RCN UK Programme Manager for the Member Journey.

The standards were drawn up because it became clear that while supervision has been available to RCN stewards for a long time, learning reps and safety reps were receiving different levels of support from their region or country offices. “We now have one set of

## Stand and deliver

Nominations are now open for seats on both the Professional Nursing Committee and the Trade Union Committee. We caught up with committee members Rachel Hollis and Karen Sanders to find out why it's something you should consider...

### Rachel Hollis FRCN, Vice Chair, RCN Professional Nursing Committee (PNC)

#### Why did you want to join the committee?

I believe the RCN has a really important role to play as a professional body – we are the voice of nursing, and at a time when there's a lot of changes taking place in health care, that voice needs to be strong. I sometimes think the professional work of the College has less focus than its trade union function and I felt by joining the PNC, I would be able to help strengthen our professional arm.

#### What was your previous involvement with the RCN?

I'm a long-standing member of the RCN Children and Young People Specialist Care Forum and I've previously served two terms as its Chair. I'm also an RCN Fellow and sit on the RCN Fellow's Co-ordinating Committee. This works well because I can make sure the PNC is linking in with our fellows and

the College is using the experience and knowledge of its fellows effectively.

#### Who should apply?

We're looking for people who have a real sense of their professional identity. The great thing about this role is it gives you the chance to get involved in work that will take you to the hexpum andt(h)4e R)8CN C)-5hi)-5)46)Tdge d(l)-5(p)-9o)1pm-52

The Professional Nursing Committee (PNC) and Trade Union Committee (TUC) were formed at the start of 2018 and report into RCN Council.

The PNC is the RCN's decision-making body for professional issues and provides leadership on the RCN's work in this area.

The TUC makes decisions on the RCN's trade union functions and activities and helps the College to develop as a modern progressive trade union.

Nominations for both committees close on 4 October.

To find out more visit [tinyurl.com/rcn-current-elections](http://tinyurl.com/rcn-current-elections)

