

Background

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Education, Learning and Development strategy¹ (ELD) 2021 – 2024 launched in 2021. Part of the strategy was to develop a new exciting online space, offering easy access to learning and education required to fulfil continuing professional development (CPD) and support the delivery of safe and effective care. In collaboration with RCN and RCNi this new space is named RCN Learn² and by using the feedback from the extensive RCN ELD strategy consultation process with members and partners from across the UK, RCN Learn has various access routes to support the nursing, health, and social care workforce.

Aim(s)

RCN Learn is designed to support the nursing, health, and social care workforce with topics for nurses, midwives, students, healthcare assistants, nursing associates and nursing support workers. RCN Learn is available to with various access levels to RCN members, non-member, organisations, stakeholders and RCNi Plus Subscribers. Ensuring that all resources were accessible, quality assured and peer reviewed and easily located.

Methods

RCN Learn was scoped and developed over eighteen months using a true matrix approach with many different teams across RCN and RCNi. Workstreams were created to:

- Engage with members and stakeholders to form an 'expert reference group.'
- Ascertain requirements and development of a new virtual online platform to host RCN Learn
- Cataloguing and reviewing all RCN UK resources, implementing a strengthened robust RCN Quality assurance process, and assessing applicability for inclusion into RCN Learn
- Inclusion of a new revalidation RCNi portfolio in collaboration with RCN Learn for members.

Results

RCN Learn supports all roles across the health and social care workforce, from pre-registration students, nursing support workers, nurses, nurse associate and midwives in all health and social care environments. RCN Learn it is easily accessible on all devices. Resources are quality assured, peer reviewed and accessible for users with any neurodiversity disabilities and aligned to the RCN ELD live Equality Impact Assessment. Each resource has taxonomy applied supporting the search process. RCN Learn provides an inclusive, supportive, and inspirational environment, for the health and social care workforce who are encouraged to share their knowledge, skills, and experience, to underpin the delivery of safe and effective care.

Discussion

RCN Learn is an exciting first of its kind collaboration, an interactive one stop learning space for all roles across all environments, providing a variety of resources. It is designed to help the nursing workforce develop their clinical, leadership, research and innovation education and professional skills. From pre-registration onwards, including our nursing support worker colleagues. Resources are in different styles, for example, programmes of learning, bite size modules and web based resources.

Implications and future perspectives

A feedback facility within encourages users to feedback thoughts and queries, this is invaluable to the RCN Learn team in our ongoing development. We are continuing to develop an RCN and RCNi directory of evidence-based education, learning and development activities to empower the nursing workforce to influence and embed a learning culture with healthcare delivery

References

1. RCN and RCNi Education, Learning and Development Strategy (2021 – 2024) <https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/education-learning-and-development-strategy>
2. RCN Learn <https://rcnlearn.rcn.org.uk/>