

Meet the Judging Panel: Learning Disability Award



Caroline Shuldham OBE

Caroline Shuldham is a non-executive member of the RCNi board and a registered nurse with a background in critical care and cardiac nursing. She chaired the RCNi editorial advisory board from 2015-2019.

Dr Shuldham is an independent consultant, with experience in clinical governance, management, research and teaching. She is a non-executive director at community care provider CSH Surrey, where she chairs the quality and safety governance committee. She is an adviser on care matters to the trustees of a charity that provides independent living accommodation and a care home for older residents. Previously, Dr Shuldham was executive director of nursing and clinical governance at Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust.

In all her roles Dr Shuldham has a strong commitment to the well-being and safety of patients.



Christine Walker

Editor of Learning Disability Practice and Nursing Children & Young People, RCNi

Ms Walker originally trained as a journalist and has worked for a variety of publications, and in health and medical communications. She is a clinical editor who has specialised in nursing since 2002.



David Williams

Head of service, Salford Complex Needs Learning Disability Service

David Williams has been a member of the RCN LD professional forum since 2015. He is currently leading on the strategic development of services with an integrated care organisation that is part of the Northern Care Alliance. He is also the lead on behalf of Greater Manchester on workforce development for learning disabilities and autism.



Gary Bell

Editorial director of RCNi

Gary Bell has been a journalist for 30 years, working on newspapers in Australia and the UK.

He joined RCNi in 2004 and held a number of different posts within the company, before being appointed to his current role in June 2019.



Margaret Sneddon

Honorary senior research fellow, University of Glasgow

Margaret Sneddon joined nursing and the Royal College of Nursing in 1974 as a student. Her clinical background spans gynaecology, oncology and palliative care, subsequently specialising in lymphoedema. She is an educator who initiated and led various palliative care and lymphoedema programmes in the University of Glasgow, taking on leadership of the Nursing & Health Care School for nine years. Ms Sneddon's contribution was recognised by the university with a Teaching Excellence Award in 2007 and an Outstanding Contribution to Lymphoedema Education from the International Lymphoedema Framework in 2009. In 2016 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Lymphology Society. Having retired as head of school in 2016, Ms Sneddon continues input to university education of all disciplines, support of the RCN and has an active leadership role as a trustee with the British Lymphology Society to further understanding of lymphoedema and chronic oedema.



Yvonne Coghill CBE, OBE

Director of WRES Implementation in NHS England

Yvonne Coghill commenced nurse training at Central Middlesex Hospital in 1977, qualified as a general nurse in 1980 and then went on to qualify in mental health nursing and health visiting. In 1986 she secured her first NHS management job and has since held a number of operational and strategic leadership posts.

Ms Coghill has been voted by colleagues in the NHS as one of the top 50 most inspirational women, one of the top 50 most inspirational nurse leaders and one of the top 50 BME pioneers. In 2018 she was awarded a fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing, an honorary fellowship from King's College University, honorary doctorates from the Middlesex and Buckinghamshire Universities and has become deputy president of the RCN.