

# Chief Nursing Officer for England hails new Queen's Nurses' leadership potential



The Queen's  
*Nursing Institute*

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Thirty new Queen's Nurses gathered for the first time in London on 11 November to hear Dame Christine Beasley, Chief Nurse for England, give her views on the way forward for community nursing following the Darzi Review. The full day programme, organised by the Queen's Nursing Institute, was the first general meeting for new Queen's Nurses who have received the title since it was re-introduced in 2007.

Dame Christine spoke about the challenges ahead in transforming the NHS and the vital importance of the nursing profession to this vision. She cautioned that the programme to transform the NHS is now entering its most difficult phase, but said that nurses were "at the core in terms of making a difference" and offering "transformational leadership" across the whole system.

She said, "The care and compassion model is central to what people do," adding that nurses themselves were "living proof of the difference that they have made to people's lives." She added that nurses, always good team players, have to ensure that they are equal partners with other members of the health professions. She said that too often they have found themselves cast in the role of junior partners. In this sense she said the reintroduction of the Queen's Nurse title is of great importance to the development of nurse leadership. She added that a lot of work remains to be done around post-registration training, a point taken up by the audience.

The Queen's Nurses, representing a very wide range of specialties and geographical locations, discussed the complex issues affecting them professionally. A range of practical recommendations were developed to embed the Queen's Nurse programme with all healthcare employers.

A participant commented, "Personally, I found meeting other like minded nurses very stimulating, especially discovering the nurses from my area and being able to organise a meeting with them in the spring. Being able to meet as a group helps me to put my ideas into perspective and to consolidate what I think." Another QN added, "I was able to return to work full of inspiration and enthusiasm."

Rosemary Cook, Director of the QNI added, "After the success of today's event and the endorsement of the Queen's Nurses who took part, we are planning a regular programme of meetings nationally and regionally. The collective impact of the new Queen's Nurses has the potential to make a very significant contribution to evolving policy and improving practice in 21st Century healthcare."

The next submission date for Queen's Nurse applications is 23 February 2009.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Queen's Nurses present at the meeting were from eight English Strategic Health Authorities, plus Northern Ireland. The QN title was reintroduced in 2007 after a gap of 40 years. Community nurses with at least three years experience in any specialty can apply. The title was re-instated in part due to nurses' own concerns about new challenges to the unique identity and role of nurses in primary care. More information is available at [www.qni.org.uk](http://www.qni.org.uk)

The Queen's Nursing Institute is a registered charity, No.213128. We support community nurses in any specialty with project funding, professional development, information networks, financial and personal assistance, and work to influence national policy affecting nurses in primary care.