



The Queen's
Nursing Institute

NEWS RELEASE

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Queen's Nursing Institute welcomes 'charter for innovation and enterprise' but warns of hole at the centre of the picture.

Nursing charity the Queen's Nursing Institute today welcomed the vision for the future of community health services set out in the NHS Next Stage Review Final Report and accompanying workforce and primary care documents, but challenged the omission of district nursing from the picture of community care.

'In many ways this is a charter for innovation and enterprise', commented QNI Director Rosemary Cook. 'There is a great emphasis on finding new ways to deliver services, not just through social enterprises, but through new integrated care organisations. This is important, as different community nurses will want to work in different kinds of organisations, not all be forced into one model. I think they will welcome the recognition that social enterprises will work in some places, partnerships with local authorities will be right in others, and one-stop-shops will be better elsewhere.'

Other aspects of the report welcomed by the QNI, which helps community nurses throughout their careers to develop innovative approaches to care, include:

- Local funds and prizes for innovation
- The 'Coalition for Better Health', with agreements between Government, private and third sector organisations, focused on reducing obesity and increasing people's physical activity – areas of work for many QNI-funded nurse-led projects
- The focus on measuring the quality of care and outcomes, also a key feature of QNI projects
- The NHS Constitution's pledges on work and wellbeing, which will be welcomed by community nurses taking part in the QNI's Nursing No 1 campaign that helps nurses to take care of their own health
- The focus of 'A High Quality Workforce' on strengthening the workforce planning and education commissioning system, and particularly the creation of new national profession-specific advisory boards.

QNI welfare and grants officer Jo Moorby commented: 'I think the most important factor for many nurses will be the ability to keep their NHS pension if they move to a social enterprise. We help a lot of nurses in dire financial straits, and we understand that staying in a pension scheme is very important to people.'

'If there is one thing missing from these exciting documents' added Ms Cook, 'it is an acknowledgement of the contribution of district nurses to the improvements in care of people with long-term conditions over the last decade. The GP contract, Quality and Outcomes Framework, Family Health Partnerships, pharmacy roles and expansion of community

hospitals are all mentioned, but there is a hole at the centre of this picture. Without the day to day work of 12,000 district nurses and their teams, doing case management and delivering both highly technical and compassionately individual care, many of these people would simply not be able to manage at home. District nurses are just as essential to the innovation and enterprise envisaged in this report as the rest of the primary care team.'

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Notes to Editors:

1. 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.