

Community Nursing Healthcare Policy Update

Week ending 25th August 2017

Nursing

Fall in the number of school nurses

Statistics published by NHS Digital show the number of school nurses has fallen by 550 since 2010. In this year alone, over 100 school nurses posts have been lost.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has [called](#) on the Government to ensure local authorities are given enough funding to provide fully-staffed school nursing services.

"It is time the Government wakes up and realises the hugely detrimental impact these cuts are having to our children and our society. School nursing is a critical service and it needs to be treated as such".

E-nursing

The week of August 21st saw NHS Digital's e-nursing week [launch](#), which advocates for a more digital-ready workforce.

In 2016, the Royal College of RCN passed a motion calling for every nurse in the UK to be an e-nurse by 2020 and has since [launched](#) the 'Every nurse as an e-nurse' campaign.

Approximately 80% of patient care is provided by nurses. Therefore, when it comes to being at the forefront of utilising technology and developing innovating ways of working using information technology, nurses are at the core.

Advanced nurse practitioners in nursing homes reduce hospital admissions

A [study](#) by the University of Missouri in the United States, has found that introducing advanced nurse practitioner roles in nursing homes can reduce the number of people admitted to hospital as a result of dehydration and/or falls.

The findings come from The Missouri Quality Initiative for Nursing Homes (MOQI), which has seen advanced practice nurses placed in 16 nursing homes across the city of St Louis. Working closely with the leadership team and nursing home staff, the nurses influence changes within their nursing home and identify, assess and manage residents suffering from ill-health.

Link between nurse staffing levels and patient mortality

A [study](#) has found a link between higher patient mortality and low nursing numbers and in turn, missed care. It is estimated that for every 10% of incomplete care, the

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By Louise Clanfield, QNI Research Officer.

likelihood of dying following surgery increased by 16%. Missing nurse care includes; pain management, documentation, administering medicine, patient surveillance and comforting patients.

Public Health

'One You' campaign

Public Health England [launched](#) the 'One You' physical activity campaign, after reports that just 41% of those aged between 40 and 60 in England do less than ten minutes of continuous brisk walking each month. An app has also been created which advises how much brisk walking an individual does each day and advises how more can be done.

Since the 1960s, lifestyles have changed considerably, with people in UK now 20% less physically active than they were in that decade. Inactivity amongst adults has significant implications, with one in six deaths and costs of more than £0.9 billion each year attributed. It is suggested that a daily brisk 10 minute walk reduces the risk of early death by 15%.

GPs

International recruitment plans

NHS England has [announced](#) plans to recruit approximately 600 overseas doctors into general practice in 2017/18. By 2020/21 more than 2,000 overseas doctors will be recruited. The plans form the '[International GP Recruitment Programme](#)'.

To coincide with these plans, NHS England established a GP International Recruitment Office, which will administer the programme.

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) [commented](#): *"We welcome any GP from the EU or further afield who wants to work in UK general practice – as long as they meet the rigorous standards set by the College and General Medical Council to ensure safe clinical practice – to contribute to delivering care to over 1m patients every day. Indeed, thousands of GPs from overseas already work alongside UK GPs, and we are incredibly grateful for their skills and expertise"*.

Targeted GP Training

Health Education England [announced](#) proposals which include allowing those doctors who did not successfully complete their GP training to re-enter the programme, extending training time for trainee GPs in accordance with other specialities and supporting doctors from other specialities to train as GPs.

The RCGP [commented](#) : *"We estimate that around 250 candidates could be eligible for Targeted GP Training according to these proposals ... Compared to the thousands more GPs we need in the workforce, this is a modest number and it is important that we do not generate false hope for those 'targeted' candidates, as these proposed new measures would not guarantee their success. The college is open to any proposal that intends to safely increase the number of GPs practicing in UK general practice – and we have cooperated fully and positively with HEE and others throughout this consultation process. But important recommendations from the College, such as a set time for the proposals, are not outlined clearly enough in this report, and will need to be addressed"*.

Social Care

Proposed guidelines to give people more control over their lives

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) have [published](#) new guidelines for public consultation on social care services. The new guidelines urge local authorities in England to help adults to yield more control over day-to-day activities. In 2016, just 33% of adults who use social care services reported that they had as much control over their day-to-day life as they would like.

Other

Support for NHS whistleblowers

NHS England launched a pilot support scheme to help NHS whistleblowers. Those who have blown the whistle are [reported](#) to have suffered considerably, with disciplinary action, counter allegations, bullying and victimisation cited and individuals suffering from psychological trauma. The 2016 NHS staff [survey](#) reported that 30% of staff did not feel safe in raising concerns about clinical practice.

Those who have suffered as a result of raising concerns will be offered an array of support under the '[Whistleblowers Support Scheme](#)'. This includes mediation, career coaching and financial advice.

The pilot will run until March 2018 and will be evaluated by Liverpool John Moores University.

Lessons for health services in Canterbury, New Zealand

The King's Fund published a [report](#) looking at the health system in Canterbury New Zealand and considering what the NHS can learn from it.

'Developing accountable care systems: Lessons from Canterbury, New Zealand' contains the following key points:

- Canterbury's health sector has undergone significant conversion of the past decade, with a health service which now supports more people in their community and home and has lessened hospital care demand.
- This was accomplished through a number of delivery models being implemented, including increasing investment into community services, bolstering primary care and effectively integration care across service and organisational boundaries.
- Models introduced in Canterbury include:
 - a) Electronic shared care record view, in which health professionals from across health and care service can view and share information and records.
 - b) HealthPathways, in which referral pathways and primary care management are created through collaboration between hospital doctors and GPs.
 - c) Acute demand management system, in which urgent care for acute needs is provided in communities or homes by GPs and with support from a range of rapid response professionals such as community nurses and hospital-based specialist advice.
- Revolutionising Canterbury's health service has required a significant amount of time and funding, which presents challenges for the NHS due to the limited amount of funds currently assigned to transform services and the tight-timescales in which to do it by.