resources for nurses and midwives produced by the Nursing and Midwifery Council and RCN.

If we all effectively engage with the process, nursing can be enhanced, high standards maintained and improvements made.

Revalidation should not be seen as a tick-box exercise but as an excellent way to reflect on practice and enhance nursing care.

Donato Tallo, by email

**NURSES NEED TO STAND TOGETHER TO DENOUNCE THIS CRUEL GOVERNMENT**

I too feel Zeba Arif’s disappointment that nurses did not create a storm of anger against unjust and cruel government plans, such as the cuts to disability benefits (letters, March 30).

We have been told by the government that we are all in this together, despite the fact that the wealth of the richest has increased wildly since David Cameron took office in 2010.

Nurses could show who is really in charge by actively supporting not only other professions who are experiencing similar attacks to ours, but also the poor and the vulnerable people we care for, who are suffering as a result of the austerity measures introduced by the government.

It’s not too late if we stand together. Tell three people what is being done to our NHS, email your MP, spend time with the junior doctors on a picket line – or take them a doughnut and a cup of coffee. There are loads of us and we can make a huge difference if we all stand up for what is right.

Karen Chilver, palliative care clinical nurse specialist, London

**PROTECTED TRAINING TIME IS ESSENTIAL FOR PATIENT SAFETY**

The Commission on Education and Training for Patient Safety has recommended that Health Education England (HEE) review mandatory training and the delivery of continuing professional development (CPD) relating to patient safety (news, March 16). All staff and trainees need to be empowered to raise concerns and they need support from managers to learn about and improve patient safety.

HEE is committed to addressing the issues in the report and will work with partners to include the identification and management of risk in future education and training programmes. Staff must have protected time for training and we will review mandatory training with respect to CPD and work to standardise training in the NHS.

We all need to build on the momentum and act now to make sure that education and training is driving the kind of change that staff and patients want to see.

Wendy Reid, director of education and quality, Health Education England

**DID YOU START YOUR TRAINING AT BARTS IN LONDON 40 YEARS AGO?**

Barts set 21 (1976-79) are having a reunion on September 17. If you were part of this group and would like to join us to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the start of our course, please email caroleknott@btinternet.com.

Carole (née Gell) Knott, by email

**ON THE LAUNCH OF A CONSULTATION ON GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REPLACE NHS BURSARIES WITH LOANS**

- Terrible idea! The government need to listen to the people who have been through nurse training. There is no way I would have been able to afford to go into nursing were it not for the bursary. A degree in nursing is not like a normal degree.

Emma Hall

- It’s ridiculous. Already there is a shortage of placements, mentors and nurses in general. Many people who start nursing are mature students. Where are people going to find the funds to run a family and a home as well as getting into debt to go to university? It’s going to be impossible for many people.

Nadine Falconer

**FROM FACEBOOK**

**TWEETS OF THE WEEK**

I’m training to be an AP. All the talk about nursing associates has got me worried about my job/role

@ami0484

Poor staff levels are becoming the norm and the wards are becoming dangerous. Two years qualified and already feel like retraining

@CoffeeKev

Upskilling and regulating HCAs might be better than a whole new tier of staff

@MarkHayter1

All AHPs should be regulated. We must all be held accountable

@jodie_lunn

Nursing needs to stick to its guns - degree training… not try to appease government and critics

@wendyjpitt61

Although possible benefits, associate role doesn’t fix ongoing issues with the vital role of RNs

@HollyMay_20

Many on @NurChat were worried about it replacing RN roles

@NewCrossHealth

Would nursing associate not be like a senior care support role we have already?

@nurselife1983

RN’s = safer care. RN4CAST study. Need to stop compromising

@BunzBird

The longer I am a nurse the more I see we are not the experts and HAVE to change focus of care to a truly person centred approach

@ShazzaHudson

Follow Nursing Standard @NurseStandard and join the #NScomment chat on Thursdays at 12.30pm