The long-awaited successor to the Compassion in Practice strategy for nurses, midwives and care staff will be launched this week.
Leading Change, Adding Value, due to be unveiled today (Wednesday) at the RCN’s London headquarters by the chief nursing officer for England Jane Cummings, will guide staff for the next four years.
Unlike Compassion in Practice, NHS England describes the new guidance as a ‘framework not a strategy’. It is intended to cut down on jargon and give nurses and midwives a national document that can be implemented at local level, in hospitals and in the community.
The framework is also designed to complement the NHS chief executive Simon Stevens’ strategy Five Year Forward View, which runs until 2020, by showing nurses the role they can play in implementing key health policies.
Planning for the new framework began last summer, with 11,000 written suggestions for content being contributed by nurses and midwives via meetings, emails and social media.

The three most requested elements were:

- Retain the 6Cs – compassion, courage, care, commitment, competence and communication.
- Ensure ownership – make the framework relevant at a local level.
- Engage with nurses and midwives.

After reviewing the suggestions, Ms Cummings and her team developed ten commitments as the basis for the new framework (see box).

Ms Cummings said: ‘All nurses have a role to play in promoting our profession and I want them to understand what this framework means to them as individuals.’

‘While a huge amount of work will continue to be done in hospitals, we have to look to the future, where care in communities and direct to patients in their homes is key.’

Ms Cummings said she recognised the pressure and demands faced by the 545,000 registered nurses and midwives working across varied organisations in England, adding: ‘This framework is about positioning nurses as leaders across the board and how we in authority support them.’

Dementia champion is NI nurse of the year

A nurse who transformed dementia care at her trust has been named RCN Northern Ireland nurse of the year.

Western Health and Social Care Trust lead nurse for older people’s mental health Pauline Casey initiated changes that dramatically reduced falls and challenging behaviour among dementia patients.

Ms Casey, pictured with Northern Ireland chief nurse Charlotte McArdle, left, and RCN general secretary Janet Davies, right, at the event at Hillsborough Castle in Belfast, said: ‘I can’t believe it. I am really surprised, just shocked.’