RCN must flex its union muscles

The government wants to condemn nurses to an annual 1% ‘pay rise’ for the next four years. With inflation this amounts to a 20% pay cut between 2010 and 2020.

Our bandings are based on job matching that is up to 15 years out of date, leaving nursing as the lowest paid of the NHS graduate professions.

The RCN should use its stewards network to begin lodging pay grievances focusing on how the nursing role has changed since Agenda for Change was introduced in 2004. It’s time the RCN started flexing its trade union muscles.

Mike Travis, RCN council member

We need abuse training for all

I support mandatory domestic abuse training for all healthcare workers [news, June 29]. I attended an emergency department after my ex-partner had attacked me. No one asked if I was okay – it was more a case of clean me up, check for injuries and send me on my way. Clearly, the 6Cs were not implemented during my visit.

A nursing student colleague responded to a documentary about a girl suffering domestic abuse by saying: ‘Just leave him,’ I explained it was not that easy.

These incidents demonstrate the importance of training for students and qualified staff.

Bekki Lloyd, by email

Don’t exclude students

I have just started applying for my first job. I use the website NHS Jobs, but students are often excluded by the ‘pre-application questions’. These ask if I am registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, which I’m not yet.

When I’ve called organisations to ask if I can be considered, they have almost always said yes, but how many are missing out? Employers need to word their adverts better so nursing students are not put off.

Colin Phillips, nursing student

FROM FACEBOOK

SHOULD NURSES BE PROSECUTED IF THEY FAIL TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE?

I’m sure all nurses would report it if they see or suspect abuse. Threatening them with criminal proceedings just leaves a bad taste in my mouth. How is it going to do any good?

Dana Rose

If nurses fear prosecution for not reporting abuse, will they become paranoid and report every ticking off a child gets in case they have missed a potential abuse scenario?

Stephen Taylor

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Join the debate @NurseStandard

I am worried that without EU our working conditions will worsen. Sick pay, annual leave and maximum hours will all be cut #NSComment @drew_london

Another concern is the lack of diversity training for nurses. Many will struggle to deal with racism & xenophobia @GGByrne

We still don’t ‘know’ what will happen in the world of nursing @Steve_J_I

Further Balkanisation and sale of public healthcare almost certain, welcome US-style insurance system @edfreshwater

Combination of #bursary #housingcrisis #Brexit will affect @WeNurses the most @katerinakolyva

How soon until a general election then – do we need it now, or would this muddy things further? @gchesneycollins