YOUR VIEWS

Poor pay must be addressed

The government’s response to an online petition calling for fair pay for nurses is disgusting (news, 16 November). Ministers should come to a trust unexpectedly – without the trust suddenly having enough staff just for the visit. Only then will they appreciate how nurses try to manage a ward with patients all with differing diagnoses, helped only by agency and bank staff who may not know the hospital, let alone the ward.

Nurses are demoralised and angry. If ministers don’t pay nurses what they are worth, soon there will be no NHS.

Anne Wells

Nurses are expected to be highly educated and take on more medical-related tasks, but they get no recognition for their work or the skills they have. The government’s stance on poor pay for nurses is historical and continues to this day (news, 16 November).

No wonder nurses feel demotivated when the very government responsible for our professional well-being fails to recognise or reward our commitment and dedication to the health of our patients.

I don’t know how ministers sleep at night.

A Matossian

We must save district nursing

Your story about district nurse numbers falling in more than half of trusts comes as no surprise (news, 23 November).

The shortage in community staff nurses makes caseloads impossible to manage safely.

Kat Barber

Tackling student attrition

The government has no idea why nursing student attrition is rising (analysis, 23 November).

There has been little research into why students drop out; what has been found is not just down to finance, but also the pressure of the course.

Expecting Health Education England to fix the problem shows the government’s lack of insight into health care.

Out of 6 female nurses who qualified in 1987, only I is still working, old nurses like me r never consulted as 2 why

Michelle Brown

9 years and staff are choosing to return to acute trusts. Something has gone seriously wrong.

Mares

Also, there is inequity in the NHS regarding the role. In my previous trust, a band 6 district nurse would manage a caseload, and have patient contact and management responsibilities, which is exactly the same job as the team leader band 7s in my new trust.

Cottage hospitals are being closed, putting even more pressure on district nursing and community services. When I came into the community in 2008, it was the place to be, the ideal job. Fast forward almost

Anne Wells

Many nurses feel stressed and demoralised

It’s not just student drop-outs that are concerning; we also need to address newly qualified nurses who are disenchanted with the breakdown of the NHS and excessive stress.

Us older nurses are counting down the days to retirement. We’re still loving our job but not the ever-increasing targets, expectations and paperwork that are taking us away from our patients. I trained to give care, not write about it.

@NurseVicky23

Out of 6 female nurses who qualified in 1987, only I is still working, old nurses like me r never consulted as 2 why

Michelle Brown

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Join the @NurseStandard Twitterchat every Thursday from 1pm to 2pm using #NScomment

Last week we asked: What can be done to reduce student attrition?

Every parent student nurse in my cohort, other than myself, dropped out. Finances, childcare & pressure of course

@NurseVicky23

Out of 6 female nurses who qualified in 1987, only I is still working, old nurses like me r never consulted as 2 why

@jackmcme

Finances, I’d say. We’ve gone from 2 incomes to 1, with a pittance for bursary. It’s a struggle.

@sixoutofthenmag

Attrition rates may simply reflect poor entry requirements/interviewing. Just a thought.

@youvegotanthony