LETTERS

Obesity plan is misdirected

The government’s new obesity strategy not only fails to challenge the big food companies who profit from childhood obesity, it has shifted responsibility to health visitors who are already dealing with an impossible workload.

Cuts in public health funding have snatched away health visiting posts. The remaining staff have to take on extra caseloads and make risky delegations. They cannot cope. Where on earth will they find the time to initiate difficult conversations about health and well-being?

Gay Lee

Mandatory reporting of abuse

The government is seeking views on the mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect (tinyurl.com/zuhhqt2).

It is important that nurses contribute as they could face sanctions if the failure to act on suspicions became a criminal offence. The consultation closes on 13 October.

Doreen Crawford

Doctors are losing support

Junior doctors’ demands for more, when they have already achieved so much, raises doubts about whether they really are putting patients first.

The country needs a strong nursing workforce and yet nurses are being asked to step up and do the work that junior doctors are paid to do with no improvements to their pay or conditions.

Michael Owen, Bolton, Lancs

Bursary vital for older students

Many mature students with valuable transferable life skills will no longer be able to train to be a nurse as accruing a large debt later in life is not an option for those who are running a home and raising children.

Attrition rates are already a problem and introducing a huge debt to hurdle will not improve things. An alternative could be a contract where graduates must work for the NHS for 5 years or pay the fees.

Shannon O’Hare

FROM FACEBOOK

BURSARIES

We need to roar, our starting salary as a graduate nurse is one of the lowest.

Sarah Pennifold

Although students are supernumerary today, they still deliver a large amount of the daily workload, and should in my opinion be paid for it, like we were.

Stephen Taylor

I think the NHS is going to see a massive crisis with recruitment of people into the nursing profession.

Sarah Stevens

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Could you still nurse at 83 and would you want to?

Join the debate @nursestandard

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I have just rtd at 67 after 48yr nursing. I would have liked to do 50 but revalidation put me off! Support would helped me stay @juleshodierne

If you are still able to physically and cognitively cope with the demands of the job then why not. @SimpleTwist

It would depend where you worked. Working 12 hours on a busy acute ward is exhausting for much younger nurses! @AliDinning

Absolutely not a chance. I’m only 37 and already feel like my body is falling apart. I’ll be burnt out by the time I’m 40! @katk301

Older nurses are so valuable to the newly qualified nurses as preceptors to share experience & knowledge @ktwallis29

Let’s hope so. The retirement age will be up to 70 when I’m 61. I may not have a choice @Sian_NP