1 in 3
midwives in some London NHS trusts are from other EU countries, according to the Royal College of Midwives
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FGM
Staff cuts leave FGM vulnerable ‘exposed’
School nursing cuts and workforce pressures are hampering efforts to end female genital mutilation (FGM).
The RCN highlighted the difficulty in response to a Home Affairs select committee report labelling the failure to tackle FGM a ‘national scandal’. The committee said it was ‘beyond belief’ that there had been no prosecutions for FGM in the 30 years since the practice became illegal in the UK.
MPs also said some staff were ignoring the mandatory duty, in place since October 2015, that requires nurses, midwives, doctors and teachers to report all incidences of FGM. They called for stronger sanctions for those who fail to meet this responsibility.
RCN professional lead midwifery and women’s health Carmel Bagness said cuts and workforce pressures were affecting grass roots efforts, and ‘leave the vulnerable exposed’.

IN BRIEF

England’s chief nurse
Jane Cummings has received an honorary doctorate from Bucks New University in recognition of her ‘outstanding career in nursing’
Go to rcni.com/CNO-honour

‘Come back’ letter sent to 54,000 former registrants

Letters have been sent to tens of thousands of former practising nurses in England urging them to return to the profession.
NHS training and education body Health Education England (HEE) revealed it sent letters to almost 54,000 former registrants earlier this month, as part of an ongoing drive to encourage experienced staff back into practice.
The Come Back campaign, launched by HEE in 2014 to address a shortage of nurses, has so far helped more than 2,000 people enrol on return-to-practice courses.
Now letters have been sent to 53,749 former registrants, asking them to consider enrolling in one of 40 such courses around the country.
Courses can be completed in as little as 3 months, costing HEE about £2,000 per candidate. This compares with an estimated £50,000 to train a nurse from scratch on a 3-year undergraduate nursing course.
The programme combines classroom and placement-based learning, with study periods and a minimum of 75 hours clinical practice over about 3 months.
During this time, returners build up a portfolio that they then send to the Nursing and Midwifery Council to re-register.
The letter outlines the incentives to join the programme, which include:
» HEE pays the returner’s course fees.
» HEE pays placement fees to the hospital or organisation that hosts their clinical hours placement.
» A one-off payment from HEE to help towards the returner’s costs, such as travel, childcare and book expenses.

‘Never been a better time’
‘HEE hope to recruit your valued experience, life skills and expertise back into the nursing workforce,’ the letter states. ‘With all the available support and guidance for returners, there has never been a better time to come back to nursing.’
Among the trusts actively trying to recruit former nurses is North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust, which has pledged to offer placements to those who enrol on a return-to-practice course at the nearby University of Cumbria.
Executive director of nursing and midwifery Maurya Cushlow said: ‘Some may feel that a lot has changed since they last wore the uniform, but it soon comes flooding back and the course is designed to update nurses with the latest techniques and advances in care.’

TWEET
’Sad my #GBBO adventure is over but so pleased to have been one of this year’s bakers’
Kate Barmby
@katebarmby
See rcni.com/bake-off-kate for more on the respiratory nurse leaving the Great British Bake Off

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