YOUR VIEWS

A bursary for men is an insult

As a man, who trained many years ago as a nurse, I object strongly to this sort of measure (‘Coventry University offers bursaries to encourage more men into nursing’, online news, 4 August).

A bursary for nurses of any gender, no problem, but this is an insult to all nurses.

If you wish to encourage more people – including men – into nursing, pay them properly as professionals, not 30-50% lower than a discount supermarket graduate programme.

Zac Whitewood-Moores

I find this to be extremely wrong; I cannot believe it is being applauded. It is completely supporting gender discrimination.

If a man doesn’t want to be a nurse because he thinks it’s a woman’s job, but would be persuaded by a £1,000 golden handshake, is this really the type of person we want to attract into the profession?

People should go into nursing because they want to nurse. There were plenty of men in my cohort, not 50/50 but those on the course did not feel embarrassed being there due to stigma. It just wasn’t an issue.

I think there are much better ways this could be encouraged than this ridiculous idea.

Laura_J_crawford_456706

We deserve a 55% pay rise

It’s good news to recruit more nurses, but now plan the retention bit (news, 9 August). Professionals deserve more. I suggest a 55% rise for nurses and 35% rise for junior doctors. Senior clinical staff should raise staff establishments to safe levels. Not ministers.

Suethornton_672576

Make Jeremy Hunt read NS!

Jeremy Hunt should be put in a darkened room with a supply of Nursing Standard and – over a 12-hour shift with a snatched toilet break/cup of coffee – forced to read from cover to cover.

The issue from 26 July was a particular example of sad tales, measured rants and positive stories of nurses’ achievements in the face of trying conditions.

This should be followed by the completion of a reflective account and evaluation of the process. I would be happy to conduct the sign-off interview.

Penny Mannings

I can’t believe the NMC

I was disgusted to read, at a time when nurses are fighting for a pay award of above 1%, that the Nursing and Midwifery Council sees fit to increase the remuneration package of their chief executive by £36,000 (news, 26 July).

I have always maintained that the NMC was an insensitive and profligate organisation, but this last move really takes the biscuit. It is a great shame that registration is compulsory and as nurses we have no way of fighting back.

John Hill, chair, Humber branch RCN

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Last week we asked: An extra 10K nursing, midwifery and AHP posts have been announced – will this solve the staffing crisis?

It takes 3 years to train nurses. What happens in the mean time? Who will care for patients? How will we retain the staff we have?
@daniellejade198

How? More than 10K nursing posts unfilled! Tiny little ineffective plaster
@ChrisElston912

No – not enough placements, mentors or applicants. First two need more money in #NHS, last one needs reversal of HMG bursary policy!
@marissadain

We can’t fill the training places we currently have due to lack of bursary and the number of mentors on the wards is diminishing.
@metba1

We’re all doomed.
@Steve_L_I