New year’s honours ‘raise profile and value of nursing’

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The successful candidates (see below) were selected from 58 applicants, identified as having ‘high potential’ by strategic health authority lead nurses across the country.

Chief nursing officer for England Chris Beasley hopes that they will be able to take on a range of top positions, not just hers.

Yvonne Coghill, CNO spokesperson, referred to the general secretaries of both the RCN and Royal College of Midwives, namely Beverly Malone and Dame Karlene Davis respectively.

She said: ‘The programme will take talented nurses from across the country and develop them to meet their full potential so that, when people like Chris, Beverly and Karlene move on, we have a core of nurses who are ready, willing and able to go for those jobs, and who will succeed in those jobs.’

Ms Coghill added: ‘The world’s changing and we want people who are au fait with finance and who understand strategic thinking and direction, so that they’re not just talking about clinical governance, quality and risk.’

She said: ‘The CNO was delighted with the quality of the applications and will keep a database of the short listed candidates who were unsuccessful on this occasion with a view to them being given the opportunity to take part in the programme in future.’

The programme, which started last month, consists of full personal assessments and 360° reviews, as well as opportunities for secondment both in the public and private sectors. This will be supplemented with individual coaching, and career tracking to identify future directions.

The six senior nurses chosen for the programme

Mary Clarke, director of nursing at City and Hackney teaching Primary Care Trust, London

Antonia Ogden-Meade, director of operations at Ashford and St Peter’s Hospitals NHS Trust, Surrey

Janet Probert, director of nursing and service modernisation at St Peter’s Hospital NHS Trust, Berkshire

Helen Thomson, director of nursing at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust

Geraldine Walters, director of nursing and public involvement at St George’s Healthcare NHS Trust, London

Leadership coaching for midwife managers

The Royal College of Midwives has launched a three-day coaching programme to enhance the leadership skills of midwifery managers. General secretary Dame Karlene Davis said: ‘We hope the programme will take midwifery leadership forward following the closure last year of the national midwifery leadership project.’ For details, www.rcm.org.uk

BME mentoring

Nurses from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds can now access NetMentor, a web based, ‘BME specific’ mentoring tool that puts users in touch with senior leaders across the NHS. As Nursing Management went to press, the tool was about to be launched at the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement’s third national conference for the Breaking Through programme. For details, access www.breakingthrough@institute.nhs.uk

by Paul Dinsdale

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