Taskforce set to tackle poverty

A Royal College of Nursing taskforce set up to tackle student poverty is to argue the case for adequate funding for nursing students in order to attract high calibre young people into the profession and fund them adequately throughout their training.

This is especially urgent now as the merger between colleges of nursing and higher education highlight discrepancies between Project 2000 diploma students on bursaries and degree students on grants.

An ageing population, falling numbers of school leavers and the demands of a changing profession mean the taskforce will need to analyse not only the implications of demographic changes but the effects of skill mix on the healthcare team. Cuts in junior doctor hours and the role of healthcare assistants are two developments to be looked at.

'The issue of student financial hardship is not something that is going to be solved overnight,' Ros Osborne Royal College of Nursing student adviser told No Limits.

'It is a complex subject at the core of which is the need to ensure that nursing has the right workforce to provide effective delivery of care, not just now but in the next five to ten years. 'The taskforce is about setting the agenda for a long term strategy to make sure the issue of student financial support is central to any policy relating to human resource planning in nursing.'

Right time and place

Valentine’s day health
ANS students in the south and the north east are planning conferences on sexual health to coincide with Valentine’s Day on February 14.

Erica Forth ANS sabbatical organiser told No Limits that a conference was planned for Newcastle, and a similar conference scheduled for London.

AIDS and community nursing
The University of Manchester has produced a free information pack for health and social care professionals involved in the community support of people affected by HIV diseases or AIDS.

‘HIV infection represents perhaps the greatest new public health challenge this century,’ said Ian Hicken of the university’s Community Nursing Professorial Unit. He believes it will be of especial value to students. Copies are available from Ian Hicken, School of Nursing Studies, Coupland 111 Building, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL.

Student researchers
Student nurses could benefit from RCN Nurse ROM.

It provides an index to the major nurse journals published in the UK, plus key items published in other major journals. Original articles can be printed off together with selective lists.

RCN Nurse ROM contains
- The RCN Library Journal database
- The full text of clinical articles from Nursing Standard from June 1992 to July 1993
- RCN Issues in Nursing and Health
- The RCN Library Journals Holdings List
- Nurse Researcher.

Price is £40 to RCN members.

For more information contact RCN Library Projects, 116 College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1BQ. Telephone 0181 427 8238 Or ansafone/fax 0181 427 8267.