Nurses have so much to bring to public health

Much of this week’s edition is devoted to public health, with a host of articles highlighting what nurses and midwives are doing to address issues such as obesity, smoking and substance misuse. We have a feature on what one NHS trust is doing to improve the health of its workers, while Louise Silverton of the Royal College of Midwives implores maternity staff to have the flu vaccine.

As Viv Bennett, director of nursing at the Department of Health and Public Health England (PHE), points out on page 26, modern lifestyles are creating significant challenges for the NHS. The potential of nurses to improve the nation’s health has never been exploited fully, but Professor Bennett and her team are on the case.

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