

QNI gives community perspective on 'urgent and important' response to 'Liberating the NHS'



The Queen's
Nursing Institute

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Community health charity the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) has produced a new Briefing on 'Liberating the NHS', the Government White Paper on the future of the NHS published in July, to help community nurses assess the impact on their services.

The Briefing outlines the key points of the White Paper in relation to patients and public health, commissioning and provider organisations, changes to funding and changes that will affect staff employment. It features 'What you can do now' boxes and ways for community nurses to get their voices heard in the response to consultations on the changes.

'This is a very important paper, with some hugely significant proposals', says QNI Director Rosemary Cook CBE. 'We want to help busy community nurses to get to grips with what the paper says, and how the changes might impact on them and their patients. This is both urgent and important.'

The QNI will be making a formal response to the four consultation documents currently on the Department of Health website, following discussion with its Community Nurse (CN) Forum and Queen's Nurses. Views from nurses who have read the Briefing, but who are not currently part of the Forum, will also be welcomed. 'We are happy for any nurse with an interest in community nursing and public health to sign up to the QNI's information service' Ms Cook adds. The service gives nurses access to a regular newsletter, online forums, Briefings and other publications.

The QNI is planning a range of actions aimed at protecting the quality of care that patients receive in their own homes, including producing new resources aimed at patients and the public, to help them to get the best out of services in the new world of primary care.

The Briefing, 'Liberating the NHS – a guide for community nurses', can be downloaded from the QNI's website at www.qni.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

1. The QNI is a registered charity (number 213128) dedicated to ensuring high quality nursing care in the home by developing our community of Queen's Nurses - nurses committed to high standards of care; supporting and funding local projects led by Queen's Nurses and others which improve patients' care; working behind the scenes to influence policy and lobbying to maintain and improve the quality of community nursing.