

'Right Nurse, Right Skills' campaign signs up 1000th supporter



The Queen's
Nursing Institute
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The 'Right Nurse, Right Skills' campaign, launched by community nursing charity the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) in October, has passed the milestone of 1,000 supporters. A mix of patients, nurses and carers have signed up to the aims of the campaign via the QNI website or on paper petitions, many of them distributed by retired Queen's Nurses.

'The overall aim of the campaign is to ensure that patients receiving care at home are looked after by people with the right skills to meet their needs,' explains the QNI's Marketing and Communications Manager, Matthew Bradby. 'We want to halt the loss of specialist community nursing skills, and make sure that vital services are not cut to save money.'

The campaign calls for:

1. All nurse team leaders to have specific community training so that they can ensure patients receive safe and high quality care in the home
2. All nurses to get skills training to match patient needs
3. All nursing teams to carry out regular audits of their skills to ensure they match patients' needs
4. All nurses new to the community to have a programme of support during their first 6 months.

'We have been inundated with support for these aims,' says Rosemary Cook CBE, Director of the QNI. 'Clearly, there is a huge amount of anxiety and concern that essential skills and services are being lost, and that community nursing as we know it is being allowed to wither away. Hundreds of supporters have posted stories on our survey page about the impact of the loss of skills on the quality of care – some of them make very sad reading.'

The first phase of the campaign targeted nurses, with members of the Association of District Nurse Educators helping to bring the aims to the attention of students and community nurse educators, and the QNI's community nurse forum, nurse partners and Queen's Nurses communities spreading the word. Posters for the campaign have been produced in Welsh at the request of nurses in Wales.

'What took us by surprise was the number of patients and carers supporting the campaign at this early stage', Ms Cook adds. 'We are talking to patient organisations

and representative groups ahead of a full launch to the public in February, but these people are ahead of the game. Our retired Queen's Nurses have been a great help in gathering hundreds of signatures to support our aims.'

As well as drawing attention to the problem, the QNI's campaign will provide a toolkit of resources, including skills audit tools and signposting to suitable courses for community nurses, to help employers and commissioners protect the quality of care in the home.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The campaign logo is below.

To find out more and to register support for the campaign please visit: <http://www.qni.org.uk/influencing-policy/Right-Nurse-Right-Skills-Campaign.html>

You can also download a campaign pack that includes poster artwork, from our website.

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