

Rebuilding Community Services

Five priorities for the incoming government

July 2024



1 Proactive management of long-term conditions to prevent unnecessary admission to hospital

Community nurses in general practice and community health services play a significant role in managing long term conditions and exacerbations. Despite this the number of district nurses has reduced by almost 50% since 2010.

Invest in education and training through a fully funded workforce plan to ensure that the community nursing workforce, in all its forms, is restored to pre-austerity levels within a decade.

2 Manage frailty and preventable deterioration amongst care home residents

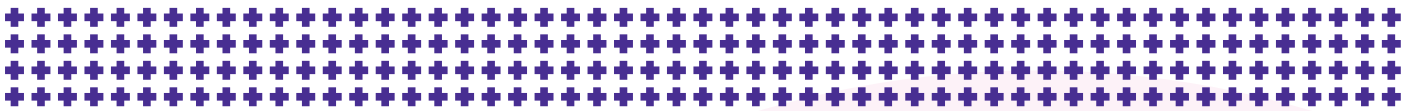
Develop advanced practice nursing roles to ensure residents in all nursing homes have access to specialist care which prevents deterioration and manages frailty.

Ensure every care home resident has access to an advanced nurse practitioner who specialises in adult social care by 2030.

3 A public health strategy to address health inequalities and the big issues faced by society

Develop and implement a public health strategy for England designed to address obesity, smoking and physical inactivity.

Recognise the contribution public health nurses, health visitors, school nurses, occupational health nurses and others make to a healthier society. Ensure all communities have access to core public health nursing practitioners.



4 Improve end-of-life care for all ages

Most people wish to die at home, rather than on a hospital ward. The new government could enable this to happen through strengthening the end-of-life workforce including district nurses, community children's nurses and hospice staff.

A renewed emphasis on the Gold Standards framework will ensure parity of provision across service providers ensuring the best possible care is available in the location of the individual's choosing.

5 Access to services for people with mental health problems of all ages

Recognise the need for accessible and responsive mental health services at a variety of different levels including tier one support in schools, workplaces and specialist teams for enduring mental health issues.

Recognise the contribution school nurses, community mental health nurses and others make to first line mental health services and ongoing support for individuals with enduring problems.

Recognise that community health services are central to the delivery of health and social care across the system.

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Without the community nursing contribution, no government can reduce waiting times, improve access and provide high quality care.

