



The FoNS Weekly News



Don't miss: The next Art of Nursing webinar

1.00-2.00 pm, 24 September 2025: Novel nurses

Brings together nurses who write novels, sharing examples of their work and together discuss why they write fiction and how being a nurse helps.

Novel nurses – for more information and the link to book your free place

Compassion as Compass: Navigating 50 Years of Change and Challenge in Mental Health Nursing

Carmel Bond

<https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.70120>

This is an open access commentary.

Grace Cook says: *An interesting article considering the history of mental health nursing and how it has led us to where we are now, with a focus on relationships as being fundamental to person-centred care. The article poses the question of how do we maintain compassion in an increasingly complex service with massive systemic pressures (such as short staffing). Clinical supervision and reflective practice are considered as one way of supporting the maintenance of compassion. Although the history may be of particular interest to mental health nurses, we would argue that within all nursing relationships are key to care and clinical supervision is vital for all in the face of "ongoing systemic pressures".*

Job boost for newly qualified nurses and midwives

From the Department for Health and Social Care comes a *Graduate Guarantee*.

- Qualified nurses and midwives given better job opportunities upon graduation with new *Graduate Guarantee*
- New support for both graduates and Trusts to improve recruitment processes and ensure a seamless transition from training to employment
- Better staffing of the NHS part of Plan for Change to build an NHS fit for the future and improve care for patients

Thousands of new jobs will be unlocked across the healthcare sector thanks to government action to make sure there are enough jobs for every newly qualified nurse and midwife in England.

The Government's *Graduate Guarantee* will ensure thousands of new posts are easier to access by removing barriers for trusts, creating a wealth of opportunities for graduates and ensuring a seamless transition from training to employment.

These new measures aim to tackle graduates' concerns about job availability, after record numbers of people chose to study nursing during the pandemic, whilst fewer nurses and midwives leave the profession.

While this demonstrates real progress in health professionals choosing to stay and thrive in their NHS careers, it has created barriers in the workforce– with up to three times as many graduates as there are vacancies in some areas.

To address this, the government has committed to a comprehensive package of reform and support, which will see more healthcare professionals deployed across a wide variety of sectors, improving access for patients as part of our Plan for Change.

This package comes as a result of collegiate and good faith working between government, the Royal College of Midwives, and the Royal College of Nursing, demonstrating that by working together, the NHS, patients, and staff all benefit.

When asked to comment by the Department of Health and Social Care, Joanne Bosanquet FoNS CEO said: "A nursing and midwifery degree is vocational. It is imperative that our health and social care system is joined end to end with higher education to enable our registered midwives, nurses, and nursing associates to see their potential future career during their undergraduate phase. I am relieved that the DHSC have taken this step to minimise uncertainty and ensure our recent graduates have options in their chosen career. We will be interested to see how this change in policy will be funded and implemented."

RCN International Nursing Research Conference 2025

Nursing Research: Transforming Global Health in a Changing World

8-10 September 2025, Exeter University or online

Keynote speakers have been announced as well as in-person and online programmes. This year, the RCN is piloting virtual tickets for those who are unable to attend in person.

[Programmes and booking information are available on the RCN website](#)

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