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## 'You need someone like Jean'



### Nursing champion retires

RCN Fellow Baroness Audrey Emerton retired from the House of Lords last month. She was made a life peer in 1997 for her services to nursing and showed great support to the RCN and its members during her time in parliament. In July, alongside Baroness Watkins of Tavistock, she jointly sponsored the RCN's gUYghUzb[ 'j Ybhk \FY members met with more than 100 MPs and members of the House of Lords urging them hc \Yd YbXh Ybi fgYghUzb[ ' crisis in England.



RCN Chief Executive & General Secretary Dame Donna Kinnair has been named as one of the top %SS'a cgh]bU YbhU '6f ]rcbgcb' the annual Black Powerlist. The list recognises people of African or African Caribbean heritage in the UK, who have changed lives or are making a huge difference across arts, health, technology, business and science.

Manchester Metropolitan University's Head of Nursing Professor Laura Serrant also appears on the list alongside Meghan Markle, Stormzy, Idris Elba and Lewis Hamilton.





Seven-year-old Matylida holding her winning design for the RCN's official Christmas card as created at

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# 6 OPINION

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## Gaming companies should fund addiction support

I read with interest people's perspectives on gaming addiction and the NHS ( , issue 381, page 7). Addiction needs to be addressed, however, it's important we don't pathologise – treatments need to be psychologically based.

Prevention must be implemented as part of health promotion within schools and the government needs to take responsibility for funding addiction services from gaming fund addiction services.

RCN steward Hilary Nelson reflects on the huge impact nursing support workers have had on her career

# The great registration controversy

In 1917, the *Nurses' Times* told its readers to: "Wake Up Slackers!" The concept of nursing was underway, and it needed supporters. But before nursing could be registered, it had to be defined. Was it a medical science? Was it a feminine vocation? There were strong views on both sides. Some resisted registration to preserve their status.

Two years later, the Nurses Registration Act came into law. So how was the battle won?

## Starting a fight

At the Nightingale Training School, established in 1860, the concept of a state register began to be discussed.

Doctors, teachers and other professionals already had state registration, but Florence Nightingale was opposed to it for nurses. She believed nursing was "a calling" for those with particular personal qualities and worried that registration would make it harder for working class women to become nurses.

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Before nursing could be registered, it had to be defined. Was it a medical science? Or a feminine vocation?



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million (19.5% of the population).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of the elderly population. The Department of Health (1998) has set out a strategy for the care of the elderly, which includes a commitment to improve the quality of care for the elderly.

The aim of this paper is to explore the experiences of elderly people who are living in care homes, and to identify the factors that influence their quality of life.

The paper is structured as follows. First, a brief overview of the current situation in care homes is provided. Then, the methodology used in the study is described. The results of the study are then presented, and finally, the implications of the findings are discussed.

## Background

The number of people living in care homes in the UK has increased steadily over the past few decades. In 1998, there were 1.5 million people living in care homes, up from 1.1 million in 1988 (Department of Health, 1998).

The majority of people living in care homes are elderly people. In 1998, 85% of people living in care homes were aged 65 and over (Department of Health, 1998).

The care of elderly people in care homes has become a major concern for the government and the public. The Department of Health (1998) has set out a strategy for the care of the elderly, which includes a commitment to improve the quality of care for the elderly.

The aim of this paper is to explore the experiences of elderly people who are living in care homes, and to identify the factors that influence their quality of life.

The paper is structured as follows. First, a brief overview of the current situation in care homes is provided. Then, the methodology used in the study is described. The results of the study are then presented, and finally, the implications of the findings are discussed.

## Methodology

The study was conducted in three care homes in the south of England. The care homes were selected on the basis of their size and the number of elderly residents.

The study was conducted over a period of 12 months. Data were collected through interviews with elderly residents, staff, and family members.

The interviews were semi-structured, and lasted between 30 and 60 minutes. The topics covered in the interviews included the residents' experiences of living in care homes, their views on the quality of care, and the factors that influence their quality of life.

The data were analysed using grounded theory (Glaser and Strauss, 1967). This approach involves the development of a theory that is grounded in the data. The theory is developed through a process of constant comparison, in which the researcher compares the data with existing theories and with the data themselves.

The results of the study are presented in the following section. The implications of the findings are discussed in the final section.

## Results

The study identified several factors that influence the quality of life of elderly people living in care homes. These factors are discussed in the following sections.

**1. Social interaction:** The study found that elderly people who have good social interactions with staff and other residents have a higher quality of life. Social interaction is an important factor in the quality of life of elderly people, and it is particularly important for those living in care homes.

**2. Physical environment:** The study found that elderly people who live in a well-maintained and comfortable care home have a higher quality of life. The physical environment is an important factor in the quality of life of elderly people, and it is particularly important for those living in care homes.

**3. Staff quality:** The study found that elderly people who are cared for by staff who are well-trained and caring have a higher quality of life. The quality of the staff is an important factor in the quality of life of elderly people, and it is particularly important for those living in care homes.

**4. Family involvement:** The study found that elderly people who have good relationships with their family members have a higher quality of life. Family involvement is an important factor in the quality of life of elderly people, and it is particularly important for those living in care homes.

**5. Health care:** The study found that elderly people who receive good health care have a higher quality of life. Health care is an important factor in the quality of life of elderly people, and it is particularly important for those living in care homes.

## Conclusion

The study has identified several factors that influence the quality of life of elderly people living in care homes. These factors are social interaction, physical environment, staff quality, family involvement, and health care.

# POLITICAL PLEDGE DIGEST

Ahead of the general election on 12 December, we've read the manifestos of the main political parties. Here's an outline of what they say, in their words, on nursing and health

Parties appear in alphabetical order

## Brexit Party

- Provide continued investment in the NHS and an increase in the number of medical staff.
- Keep the NHS as a publicly-owned, comprehensive service that is free at the point of use.
- Reject privatisation of the NHS.
- Discuss ring-fencing the NHS budget and the tax revenues that pay for it.

## Conservative Party

- Deliver 50,000 more nurses.
- Increase NHS funding by 29% between 2018 and 2023.
- Build and fund 40 new hospitals over the next 10 years.
- Provide £1bn extra funding every year for more social care staff and better infrastructure, technology and facilities.
- Give nursing students a £5,000-£8,000 annual maintenance grant, which they don't have to pay back.
- Provide more funding for professional training.
- Introduce an NHS visa, providing fast-track entry, reduced fees and dedicated support to qualified nurses from overseas.
- Provide free hospital car parking for staff working night shifts.

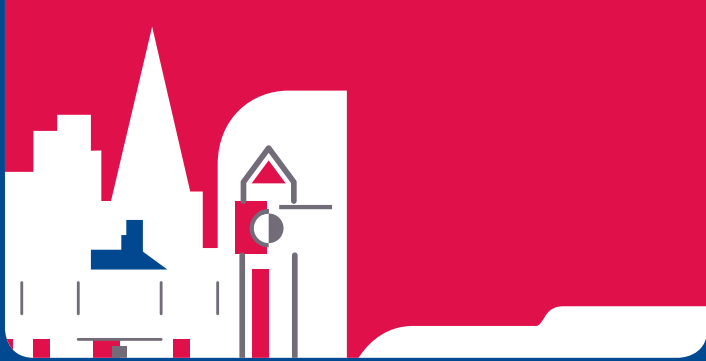
## Green Party

- Reinstatement of the health secretary's duty to provide health care services.
- Create a duty to ensure there are enough nursing staff to meet the needs of the population.
- Increase NHS funding by £6bn a year until 2030.
- Invest an extra £1bn a year in nursing higher education, allowing nursing bursaries to be reinstated.
- Roll back privatisation of the NHS, through repealing the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- Focus funding to enable the construction of new community health centres.
- Focus funding to enable major improvements to mental health care, ensuring everyone who needs it can access evidence-based therapies within 28 days.

## Labour Party

- Recruit 24,000 extra nurses by investing £1bn in restoring a training bursary.
- Put Agenda for Change terms and conditions into law alongside safe staffing limits.
- Reinstatement of the responsibilities of the secretary of state to provide a comprehensive and universal health care system.
- Increase expenditure across the health sector by an average 4.3% a year.
- Build a national care service for England, providing free personal care to older people.
- Deliver year-on-year above-inflation pay rises for NHS staff, starting with a 5% pay increase.
- Provide free hospital parking for staff.
- Provide mental health support for staff and tackle harassment, bullying and violence.

**WHAT WE  
WANT**



The RCN does not support one political party over another. We work with all political parties to champion the cause of nursing and enact positive change. The information published here is not exhaustive, but rather highlights some of the pledges made by the main political parties in their manifestos. Please see their full manifestos to make an informed choice.

While health and social care are devolved in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the political parties in each country have taken the opportunity to set out some key health and care commitments in their manifestos.

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# 12 FEATURES

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“Being diagnosed with HIV can be



Taking a tablet every day for the rest of your life is a challenge for most people, but with a mental health problem, this challenge is increased hugely

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# 14 FORUM FOCUS

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**Gail Goddard**  
District and Community  
Nursing Forum

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# 16 EVENTS

For details of more events visit the region and country pages of the RCN website or go to [rcn.org.uk/events](http://rcn.org.uk/events)

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# CAREERS

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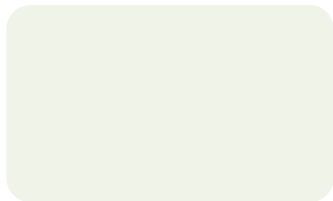
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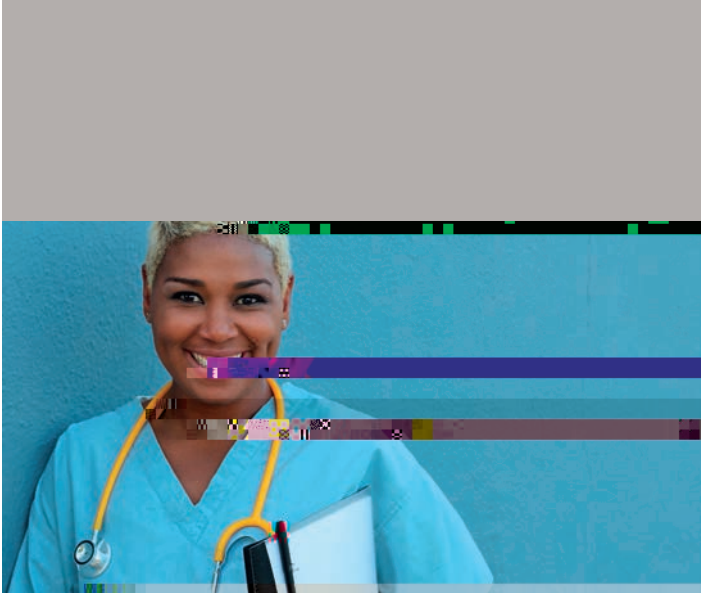








If you love nursing but want a change in environment to a warm  
WUHQGN RIÁFH WKHQ ZH KDYH WKH URQH IRU \RX



MANAGEMENT

CHILD HEALTH

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with training leading to a

<UP]LYZP[~ \*LY[P]AJH[L PU \*SPUPJHS 7OHYTHJVSVN` 7YHJ[PJL  
 £30,000 to £36,000 (depending on experience)  
 + estimated £2,500 for unsocial hours

We are an independent contract research organisation (CRO) with a worldwide reputation for early clinical trials of new medicines, mainly in healthy volunteers, laboratories, pharmacy, sleep laboratory and endoscopy unit.

disciplinary team running phase I & phase II clinical trials. Duties include collecting trial data, safety monitoring, and adhering to trial protocols and legislation. This is

Successful candidates will have:

- adult NMC registration (RGN)
- ([ SLHZ[ ` LHYZ WVZ[ YLNpZ[VH[PVU L\_WLYPLUJL YLZLHYJO L\_WLYPLUJL PZ UV[ LZZLU[PHS

You must be a registered pharmacist or pharmacist in training. Please send your CV to [recruitment@rcnbulletinjobs.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@rcnbulletinjobs.co.uk)



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