

PROTECT

No matter where people are receiving it, they have a right to expect care that is high quality, safe and appropriate for their needs.

Our members working across the community tell us that they are feeling under pressure and are challenged on staffing capacity – yet they are being asked to take on more and more, including increased support to

five years, due to projected demographic change. However, it must also be noted that this does not cover any expansion of the district nursing role.

- While the spotlight has often been on acute services, the COVID-19 pandemic has also demonstrated an increased pressure on primary and community care services as the unintended consequences of the pandemic become more recognised. It seems likely that these pressures will continue well into the future, including the rescheduling of urgent healthcare, and treating those experiencing many long lasting effects of having previously caught the virus. It is therefore vital that workforce shortages in community nursing are addressed sustainably.
- Sustainable solutions to workforce shortages are needed to ensure that all health and care services have the right staff, with the right skills, in the right place and the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019 is a vital part of achieving this. We are therefore reiterating our call for a clear commitment to implementation of the Act by the end of 2021.
- Social care reform must be an opportunity to ensure that we have the right numbers of nursing staff employed in the care home sector to meet increasing clinical acuity among care home residents. Registered nurses in care homes have a valuable role in supporting the health - and therefore quality of life - of residents, often with complex and increasing clinical needs. Their actions can enable greater and more timely clinical intervention within that homely setting, preventing avoidable hospital admissions and reducing the need for assessment by primary and community care teams.

