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INQUIRY INTO WINTER PREPAREDNESS 2016/17

Submission from the Royal College of Nursing Wales

Presented to the National Assembly for Wales Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

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09/09/16

ABOUT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING (RCN)

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nurses, midwives, health visitors, health care support workers and nursing students,
including over 25,000 members in Wales. RCN members work in a varty ong

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would alleviate pressures, improve the patient journey and lead to better outcomes⁷.

6. The introduction of 111 to IT processes. The introduction of 111 was to amalgamate and streamline the current services of NHS Direct and the Out of Hours Service. The delay in implementation could potentially be adding to unscheduled care pressures due to lack of appropriate services and therefore patients being signposted to Accident and Emergency⁸.

Has been sufficient progress in the Fourth Assembly?

7. The Royal College of Nursing Wales does not believe there has been sufficient progress in making the NHS system more robust and effective at dealing with these demands. Attached as an Annex1 to this evidence is the document Emergency Care - A Call for Action 2009. This is a set of recommendations presented by the Royal College of Nursing Wales to improve the emergency care service to the Welsh Government in September 2009. Regrettably most of these calls for action are still relevant. We draw recommendations 9 and 10 which call for investment in primary and community care.

The actions needed to produce sustainable improvements

8. The RCN is holding a conference on the 26th September 2016 in Cardiff to examine some of these issues to utilise our member

Improved workforce planning to address the shortages of nurses, this should consider increasing the numbers of pre-registration places, better coordination and management of clinical placements.

Improved coordination and management in relation to recruiting and retaining international nurses.

Development and deployment of enhanced skill mix including triage to ensure the right people deliver the care.