

# The RCN Wales 2020 Member Survey

*What should the next Welsh Government do?*

# Introduction

## Care homes are the most urgent target for the extension of **safe staffing** legislation.

We know low nurse staffing levels are linked with all kinds of patient risks.

Research has shown that wards operating with low levels of nursing staff can increase mortality rates by up to 26% compared with better-staffed wards.<sup>i</sup>

So it might seem surprising that, until a few years ago, no health care provider in the UK was under any legal obligation to maintain sufficient nurse staffing levels.

Things changed in Wales when the **Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016** came into force. Under **Section 25B** of that Act, health boards and trusts now have a legal duty to calculate and maintain nurse staffing levels according to a certain



# The Welsh Government and NHS Wales should work to understand and promote the **role of nursing** in tackling COVID-19

Few health and social care workers will remember anything quite like the COVID-19 pandemic. Their commitment to patient safety, like their leadership and professionalism, has been second to none.

have noticed a pattern: nurses frustrated at seeing their profession discussed, on the news and in press conferences, without a nurse in sight!

In fact, n



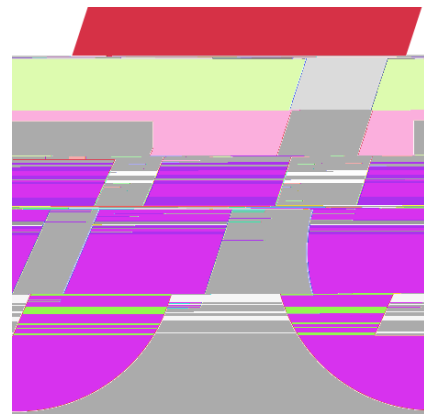






# The NHS bursary

## The top **public health** priorities for the next Welsh Government should be facilitating access to mental health services, and physical activity.



Not all illness is avoidable. But by helping people live healthier lives, we can *reduce* avoidable illness and unnecessary hospital admissions.

We asked our members what they thought the next Welsh Government needed to focus on to promote public health.

Improving access to mental health services ranked highest, followed by physical activity ranking higher, even, than addressing alcohol and substance misuse.

Most people want to be healthy! But people are individuals. By making it easier for everyone to behave in ways

that promote *their* health investing in a bike-to-work scheme, or accessible public toilets to make green spaces accessible to everyone we healthier, happier and more equal.

We believe nursing should be at the heart of minimising the impact of illness, promoting health, and helping people to function at work and at play.

The next Welsh Government must invest in improving access to psychological therapies, increase the numbers of mental health nursing students, and ensure everyone has equal access to opportunities to better their mental and physical health.

Question: Please look at the following areas of public health policy and rank them in order of importance for the next Welsh Government, from 1 (most important) to 7 (least important). (

