



Gofal Cymdeithasol **Cymru**
Social Care **Wales**



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

NMC Nursing &
Midwifery
Council

NMC Cyngor
Nyrso a
Bydwreigiaeth

Open letter to all nurses working in social care settings

Dear Colleague

The importance of social care nursing in the national response to Covid-19

We are writing to thank you for your hard work and dedication as the country responds to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Health and social care services are under extreme pressure and this pressure is being exacerbated by staff shortages due to sickness or caring responsibilities. Nurses are the largest group of registered health and care professionals in the UK, and although all professionals are important and valued, there are specific challenges facing the nursing workforce at this unprecedented time.

Everyone's skills, background and experience are vitally important to us, but we are writing today to particularly acknowledge the immense work being undertaken by colleagues like you working in the social care sector. Nursing and care worker colleagues have a crucial role in managing the complex care needs of thousands of people every day. Thank you for continuing to work so hard to support the people you care for in these unprecedented times.

We are aware that Covid-19 has created significant challenges for people working in social care and we would like to assure you that your concerns have not been forgotten. We will continue to advocate on your behalf in relation to issues like testing and ensuring you have sufficient PPE supplies, and the importance of supporting nurses in their clinical and leadership roles.

We would also like to ask for your help. Welsh Government along with the other UK and Devolved Administrations have recently issued a 'call to action' for experienced nurses not currently working to return in order to help us meet the exceptional demands we are all facing. For those who left the professional NMC register up to 5 years ago, they may now join the temporary COVID19 register (more details can be found here: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/news/coronavirus/>).

We need nurses and care work colleagues right across the health **and** social care sector to return and help – particularly those with experience of social care nursing. Please could you encourage former colleagues to come back and practise.

You already know how important nurses are in social care and what a difference they make to the lives of people living in residential homes and in the community. We need your help to spread the message far and wide. Nurses returning to help will make a real difference for older people, those living with dementia, physical and learning disabilities or mental health needs.

It would be great if you could help to promote these rewarding roles. We have a range of real stories through case studies about working in social care in Wales, which may help you in promoting. <https://www.wecare.wales/>

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks for everything you are doing. Your incredible work is seen and valued by us, and the thousands of people and families you are making a difference for. With the support of those who come back to social care, together we will be able to make sure everyone gets the care and support they deserve.

If you want any further information on how you or your former colleagues can get involved, please go to or the [NMC Covid-19 webhub](#).

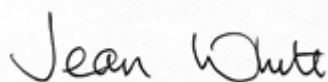
Thank you.



Sue Evans, Chief Executive, Social Care Wales



Andrea Sutcliffe CBE, Chief Executive and Registrar, Nursing and Midwifery Council



Professor Jean White CBE, Chief Nursing Officer for Wales



Albert Heaney, Deputy Director General

