

# Celebrating Nurses Day 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020



NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG have collected some messages for our General Practice Nursing Workforce to celebrate a very special occasion today, 12<sup>th</sup> May. We would like to thank Lisa Levy, Chief Nursing Officer Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG, Nina Lealan, Practice Nurse Lead for Education, Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG, Professor Tamar Thompson OBE, Deputy Chair and Lay Member (Patient and Public Involvement and Quality) Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG & Karen Storey, Primary Care Nurse Lead, NHS England and NHS Improvement for their kind words of celebration for our General Practice Nursing workforce.

General Practice Nursing has been around since the 1960s in some shape or form. In the early days, nurses were employed to work in treatment rooms and given directions by GPs. Nurses undertook tasks such as dressing wounds, taking observations, obtaining specimens and testing urine, often alongside reception work (Cartwright and Scott 1961). Fast forward to 2020 and GPNs are doing far more, GPNs are autonomous professionals, able to diagnose, treat and refer where required. We have seen the introduction of Advanced Nurse Practitioner roles along with development of Health Care Assistant (HCA) roles and the introduction of the new role of Nursing Associate.

GPNs have a vital role in driving innovation to meet the changing needs of people in their communities. Investment in support and development of GPNs is central to the provision of high quality care for the population of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your hard work, compassion and commitment to your patients and your practice, particularly during this unprecedented time.

**Lynda Dando,**  
Director of Primary Care  
NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG

**Dr Meeraj Shah,**  
Workforce Clinical Lead  
NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG



**2020**  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF THE NURSE AND  
THE MIDWIFE



Today we celebrate International Day of the Nurse 2020. It is a particularly special occasion this year as we also mark the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, and designated by the World Health Organisation, as the first ever global Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

We had planned to celebrate together at a Primary Care Celebration event; however, this has not been possible due to the current national pandemic. Therefore, I wanted to write a message to personally thank you for all of the extraordinary work you are doing in Primary Care in the fight against coronavirus. Thank you for your high level of care, dedication, compassion, and professionalism every day, and more than ever at this challenging time.



**Lisa Levy**  
Chief Nursing Officer  
NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG



Although the Year of the Nurse celebrations have been postponed this year due to the essential focus of COVID 19 it is still important to shine a spotlight on general practice nursing on this international day of nursing.

The challenges brought about by COVID 19 have seen many GPNs step up to lead and innovate during this time to meet the needs of patients in their care.

I have heard many examples where GPNs are leading on innovative practice with drive through childhood immunisation clinics, consultations using remote monitoring, video group consultations, visiting patients in their own homes as well as support for fellow GPNs through local resilience communities of practice.

These examples demonstrate that GPNs are resilient, flexible, adaptable, responsive leaders that deserve recognition as valuable members of the nursing profession and primary care team and I would like to shine a spot light on you all and say thank you for making nursing proud.



**Karen Storey**  
RN, MSc, QN  
Primary Care Nursing Lead  
NHS England and NHS Improvement





Today the 12th of May 2020 is Florence Nightingale's 200th birthday and the World Health Organisation named 2020 as International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. The anniversary of her birth is a celebration and recognition of our nursing profession which highlights the many achievements of nursing and the real challenges we face in the present time. This could not be more appropriate in the current climate whilst we tackle Covid-19 in our general practices and communities.

This year the Hereford and Worcestershire General Practice Workforce Team wanted to celebrate this occasion by showcasing the diverse nursing talent and expertise across the County. Unfortunately, the events planned in 2020 are now on hold due to Covid-19, however we have continued to promote the amazing work of the GPN profession. Coronavirus may have stopped our plans, our usual way of working and the way we lead our lives, but it has not stopped the incredible hard work and commitment that each of you have displayed every time you go into work.

Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England, stated that this year the spotlight is on us: nurses and midwives are being celebrated not just in England but across the globe. This is the chance to highlight our vast and varied skills and the work we do.

So, I wanted to send you all a personal thank you message for all your hard work and commitment not only during these difficult times but for every shift you have worked since you started your nursing career. Our fantastic Advanced Nurse Practitioners, General Practice Nurses, and Nurse Associates who work across our County are skilled and dedicated individuals who work tirelessly in General Practice. We work with amazing HCPs including our hardworking health care assistants.

If Florence Nightingale were alive today she would be proud to see a nursing profession that has constantly changed and adapted to the changing health care landscape. We should be proud of what we have achieved and should look forward to a future where nurses are valued for their commitment and passion.



Kindest Regards,

**Nina Lealan**

Nurse Team Leader Abbottswood Medical Centre

Practice Nurse Clinical Lead for Education for NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG



On **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020** we recognise the **200<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary of the Birth of Florence Nightingale as well as International Nurses Day.

There could hardly be a more appropriate moment for the Bicentenary to mark this Pioneer. A force for good, who's persistence and skill helped shape and define the nursing profession, which exists in that way as it has done these last two hundred years or so!

Florence Nightingale was not an angel, you'll be happy to know. She was a formidably tough, principled, and obstinate woman, whose main goal was to create a climate in medical care that was properly professional. And for her, proper professionalism was whatever served not only the physical health but the dignity of those being cared for. You could say that the modern profession of nursing was born out of a passion for human dignity – not just the sense of a practical job to be done, but a serious conviction that what is due to people in situations where they are helpless and even dying is time, respect and patience, no less than practical skill.

As you know only too well, Primary Care Nursing is a rapidly expanding speciality in nursing, reflecting the shift in health care delivery from secondary to primary care over the last two decades. As an “old” Nurse, who remains passionate about such a rewarding career, I believe strongly that the NHS belongs to us all – it is there at the beginning and end of our lives. It is there to improve our health and well-being, support us to keep mentally and physically well, to get better when we are ill and when we cannot fully recover, to stay as well as we can to the end of our lives. It works at the limits of science - bringing the highest levels of human knowledge and skill to save lives and improve health. **AND** it touches our lives at times of basic human need, when “care and compassion are what matter most.”

**You**, Clinical Professionals are absolutely essential to the ambition of achieving the highest standard of patient care across the NHS as it faces complexity, challenges **BUT** what an Opportunity to define Delivery! I am only too well aware that Health Professionals hold a special place in the hearts of the people of this County and indeed Country – many of whom have good reason to appreciate that we have a dedicated, enthusiastic, professional Health and Care services.

It's amazing to remember it was 1966 when the first contract between GPs and the NHS was first drawn up and funding for nurses and ancillary staff, was made available. As the Queens Nursing Institute notes - In those early days nurses were generally employed to work in treatment rooms, carrying out basic nursing care tasks such as weighing patients, testing urine, taking specimens, doing dressings and giving injections and observations such as temperature and pulse. Now with a greater emphasis placed on the role of Primary Care Nurses in the management of long-term conditions such as diabetes, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and in health promotion.



You, as Primary Care Nurses have responded to a rapid expansion in your role, developing skills, dealing with complexity, gaining knowledge, and maintaining informal networks to disseminate best practice.

### **AND Today .....**

As Primary Care Nurses you play a pivotal role in healthcare providing a complex range of interventions and services to patients within General Practice.

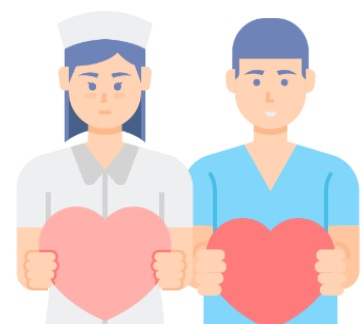
Take pride in being a highly skilled Primary Care Nursing workforce delivering essential, high standard care to your local populations, offering a breadth of both first contact and continuing care for that population. Including areas such as Long Term Conditions management as a specialist function, treating minor injuries, Health screening and promoting good health, Family planning and running immunisation and vaccination programmes (e.g. against flu) at the same time running programmes to help people to stop smoking to name but a few. **AND** what a positive development for those seeking a challenging and rewarding nursing career, and our General Practice offers this platform of opportunity.

During this unprecedented time of Covid19, you continue to be the first contact point when someone needs assessment by a primary health care professional -supporting GP colleagues in telephone screening, seeing people when necessary for primary care assessments and maintaining vital contact with people who have long term conditions.

I conclude by saying a **BIG** thank you to you **ALL**, as always, your role remains **KEY** during this crucial time, and your compassion, professionalism, skills, and commitment. Each of these elements is so genuinely valued by us all.



**Professor Tamar J Thompson OBE**  
Deputy Chair and Lay Member (Patient and  
Public Involvement and Quality)  
NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCG



**THANK YOU**