

The Florence Nightingale Foundation joins forces with Nuffield Health to advance nursing practice across the independent sector

- The Florence Nightingale Foundation and Nuffield Health are collaborating in a multi-year partnership to drive the future pipeline of nursing leadership talent from across the independent sector (including hospitals, hospices, not-for-profits)
- Nuffield Health, the UK's largest healthcare charity, is sponsoring 20 nurses from across the independent sector to take part in a new Florence Nightingale Foundation Leadership Programme, starting in October 2022 and lasting six months
- The partnership aims to elevate the importance of nursing influence across the independent sector, championing nurse-led environmental sustainability and advancing clinical practice

6 May 2022 - The Florence Nightingale Foundation and Nuffield Health, the UK's largest healthcare charity, are entering into a multi-year partnership to drive the future pipeline of nursing leadership talent from across the independent sector through a new Florence Nightingale Foundation Leadership Programme.

The new leadership programme – run by the Florence Nightingale Foundation and commissioned by Nuffield Health – will see twenty nurses from across the independent sector take part in a blended learning programme that will be delivered over a 6-month period, starting in October 2022.

The programme will focus on advancing clinical excellence and sustainable healthcare in the independent sector and will require nurses as part of the programme to implement a nurse-led quality improvement project to support environmental sustainability. Expert speakers and thought-leaders will contribute towards programme delivery and will facilitate service improvement and personal and professional development. The application process for this new leadership programme will begin in June and is open to any nurse working within the independent sector (including hospitals, hospices, not-for-profits).

The multi-year partnership also includes the annual sponsorship by Nuffield Health of a Nuffield Health nurse to become a Florence Nightingale Foundation (FNF) Leadership Scholar. Additionally, Nuffield Health is becoming the exclusive clinical sponsor at the Florence Nightingale Commemoration Service at Westminster Abbey and the annual FNF Scholar Conference.

The partnership aims to elevate the importance of nursing influence across the independent sector, encouraging nurses to improve clinical care through quality and service improvement, and policy development. For example, in a recent survey, 82.5% of FNF Leadership Scholars identified that they made an impact to health and social care policy and practice at their workplaces.

Greta Westwood, Chief Executive Officer of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, says: “Partnering with Nuffield Health represents a significant new opportunity for the Foundation to support the development of the nursing workforce within the independent sector.

“We are committed to extending access to our network and opportunities and view this partnership as central to achieving this. There are some amazing nurses in the independent sector. Importantly, we are aware that nurses working in the independent sector rarely have opportunity to influence beyond their local environment and therefore their unique experience and perspective is rarely captured within research or considered by policy makers. We view this bespoke partnership as offering both organisations the prospect of challenging this position by promoting knowledge exchange and collaborative thought-leadership.”

Caroline Smith, Chief Quality & Operating Officer at Nuffield Health, says: “We are delighted to partner with the Florence Nightingale Foundation so we can work together to elevate the importance of nursing roles across the independent sector. Nurses across all sectors showed leadership excellence during the pandemic and now is the right time to build upon this so that nurses across the independent sector can have a stronger voice and more opportunities to influence clinical policies, within their workplace and on a national level.”

Ben Davies, Head of Quality & Professional Practice at Nuffield Health, adds: “This partnership will provide a unique opportunity to cultivate clinical excellence through environmentally-sustainable service improvement. As healthcare providers work towards the achievement of net-zero goals, any and all initiatives that reduce carbon emissions must be embraced and championed. Nurses have a key part to play in this, driving improvement through carbon-reductive clinical initiatives and evidence-based practices. This programme will equip nurses with the knowledge and skills that enable them to do this effectively, empowering them as sustainability advocates and change agents of evidence-led, environmentally-conscious healthcare.”

The partnership builds on the relationship between the two charities that started with Nuffield Health’s [sponsorship of the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife in 2020](#).

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Notes to Editors

- The Florence Nightingale Foundation and Nuffield Health social media channels will have more information about the programme’s application process in late May / early June
- For more information, please contact Johanna Woodthorpe-Smith at the Florence Nightingale Foundation at Johanna@florence-nightingale-foundation.org.uk or on 07726 300662. Peter Donelan at Nuffield Health is also available at peter.donelan1@nuffieldhealth.com or on 07771 980 349.

About the Florence Nightingale Foundation

The Florence Nightingale Foundation’s principal focus is building nursing and midwifery leadership capacity and capability that will impact on improving health, clinical outcomes and patient experience. It does this by enabling nurses and midwives to access sophisticated and bespoke leadership development opportunities, both in the UK and overseas.

Through its diverse membership, scholarship and leadership programmes, today the Foundation is reaching approximately 200,000 nurses and midwives. Now more than ever, due to Covid-19 recovery and the nursing and midwifery workforce shortages, there is immense pressure on the wellbeing of those across all services, and so it is vital that we continue to support and develop our nursing and midwifery leaders – the Nightingales of today.

The bespoke leadership development programmes ensure the Foundation's offer remains unique and highly sought after. Nurses and midwives have few opportunities to develop their leadership skills. We have an excellent record of delivery; all of our scholars undertake projects which are focused on improving patient care and health outcomes and, within two years of completing a Florence Nightingale Foundation programme, four out of every five scholars go on to achieve a promotion.

It is important that nurses and midwives are empowered to use their professional voice effectively and seek all opportunities to influence healthcare policy and practice. We will ensure that the Foundation becomes 'the go-to place' for professional opinion and debate, a recognised academy for healthcare thought, and will be a voice for the nursing and midwifery.

About Nuffield Health

Nuffield Health is the UK's largest healthcare charity. For the last 60 years, Nuffield Health's experts have been working together to make the nation fitter, healthier, happier and stronger, all for the public benefit. We do this through outstanding day-to-day services in our family of 37 award-winning hospitals, 114 fitness and wellbeing centres, healthcare clinics, and over 150 workplace wellbeing services, and through our flagship programmes to support communities by widening access. 94% of Nuffield Health's hospitals are rated as Good or Outstanding by national regulators.

What makes us unique is the breadth of our expertise to provide connected care spanning from personal training and health assessments to supporting people on their fitness journeys, helping patients recover with physiotherapy or emotional wellbeing services, or providing hospital treatments for illness and serious conditions such as orthopaedics surgery or cancer care.

Additionally, what also makes us stand out is our commitment to our community flagship programmes to widen access, including our free community programmes such as our Joint Pain programme and our specialist 12-week COVID-19 recovery programme.

Find out more about us and our pioneering models of care: <https://www.nuffieldhealth.com> or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)