

Understanding the importance of seeking nurses' perceptions before any new health policy is implemented by government

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Plenary abstract:

The RCN has developed a Political Leadership programme for nursing activists. As the former chair of the RCN Education Forum I was a member of the first cohort. The experience and the motivation gained through the programme led me to undertake doctoral research into the role of nurses' to influence national policy development and implementation.

This paper examines how nurses' can become influential locally and how they can have a voice in the whole policy cycle. It identifies the skills sets, strategies and networking necessary to achieve this important role and offers clear examples of how these approaches can be used to effect change to improve patient outcomes and to provide greater job satisfaction for nurses'.

Workshop abstract:

The RCN has developed a Political Leadership programme for nursing activists. As the former chair of the RCN Education Forum I was a member of the first cohort. The experience and the motivation gained through the programme led me to undertake doctoral research into the role of nurses' to influence national policy development and implementation.

This workshop provides experiential opportunities to practice the skills required to become an effective and influential change agent in the workplace, Particularly when any new policy is to be implemented.

Skills to be addressed include:

- Listening
- Presentation of self
- Influencing
- Risk assessment