All graduate nursing workforce - factsheet
Changes to Pre-Registration Nurse Education

Existing Registered Nurses and Graduate Nursing

If you are already registered with the NMC and working as a nurse in South Central you may be wondering what the move to graduate nursing will mean for you. This factsheet may answer some of your questions and gives you further sources of information.

1. By 2016, a degree will be the minimum requirement to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and therefore all newly registered nurses will hold a degree in nursing. Changes to the curricula will further develop the following qualities: leadership, autonomy, analytical and critical thinking, positive risk-taking and decision-making.

2. The NMC has no intention of requiring existing nurses to gain a degree. It is recognised that current nurses have valuable clinical experience and additional knowledge and skills. This also applies to Return-to-Practice nurses and qualified nurses from the EU and overseas who wish to register with the NMC.

3. In South Central most trusts are working with the SHA, the RCN and local universities to prepare for the changes in nursing education and the integration of the new and existing workforce. This regional group will also share good practice.

4. If you have any questions about what this might mean for your longer term career in your organisation, or are interested in topping up to a degree, speak to your line manager and/or the education and training lead in your trust.

5. If you want to find out more about what is happening in South Central speak to your RCN rep or visit our web site where there is a more detailed Q and A on the changes and also the full programme of nurse education in South Central.