



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Addysg a Gwella Iechyd  
Cymru (AaGIC)  
Health Education and  
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Our Ref: SG/cw

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Sent via email to:  
Deans  
Heads of Nursing Pre-registration Programmes

Health Education and Improvement Wales  
Ty Dysgu  
Cefn Coed  
Nantgarw  
CF15 7QQ

03300 585 005  
HEIWenquiries@wales.nhs.uk

Dear colleague

### **Nursing Students: volunteering in the health and care system to combat COVID-19**

As part of the joint announcement made by the Chief Nursing Officers for the four UK nations, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the Council of Deans of Health, the Royal Colleges and trade unions and the UK Department of Health and Social Care on Thursday 19th March, the NHS is asking third and second year undergraduate and second-year postgraduate nursing students to consider undertaking paid NHS roles to support the NHS emergency response to the COVID-19 outbreak and support our NHS resilience and capacity at this time.

HEIW is asking education providers, as the organisations with direct contact and key links to nursing students, to please contact all second and third-year undergraduate nursing students, to enquire whether they would wish to opt into undertaking a paid placement and to then work with NHS Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) and placement providers (e.g. Health Boards/ Trusts and other organisations) to identify where students can undertake a paid placement. NWSSP will contact students separately via email to ask if they are going to opt into the 80:20 split for year two and the first 6 months of year three and whether those in the last 6 months of their programmes wish to undertake this full time in practice. As you will see from the guidance the university will need to discuss and agree the placement with the employer to ensure the student will receive appropriate supervision in the clinical setting.

We know that this is an additional ask, but we understand many education providers have already been contacted by students; this process allows you to focus these requests into one streamlined and nationally coordinated system. We have kept the data required from each student to the minimum we need.

We know this is a difficult time for all concerned, including the higher education sector, and we in the NHS are grateful for your support. This activity will directly lead to an increase in health service capacity and support sustaining the NHS can the care it provides.

Attached to this email is:

- a letter for students which we would ask you to share with them
- the student guidance document
- COVID 19 Information for practice partners

If you have any queries please get in contact with either Martin or myself

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen Griffiths  
Director of Nursing