

**NOTICE OF MOTION****GREEN GROUP****BURSARIES FOR NURSES**

This Council notes the current shortage of NHS nurses, which has reached critical levels and as such may well have an impact on the quality of services Brighton and Hove residents will receive. This Council further notes grave concerns expressed by the Royal College of Nurses about challenges in recruiting new nurses and retaining existing levels both locally and nationally.

This Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State requesting that bursaries for nursing degree courses be reinstated with immediate effect to help to avoid a worsening of this situation from 2020 onwards

This Council also asks that the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board and HOSC request a report to be brought to these respective committees every 6 months, detailing the progress on work done around improving retention of nurses.

Proposed by: Cllr Deane

Seconded by: Cllr Page

**Supporting Information:**

33,000 nurses left the NHS last year. This exodus, combined with a 96% drop in applications from the EU post-Brexit, has resulted in the number of unfilled posts doubling in the past three years to a current level of 40,000.

Of those leaving the NHS, 40% were under 30, and 50% were under 40 years old. Meanwhile, universities are struggling to fill nursing degree courses, with the Royal College of Nurses reporting a 23% fall in applications since bursaries were abolished in August 2017, as the prospect of tuition fees and the continuing cap on pay rises act as a deterrent to prospective nursing students.

A report to the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust in July 2017 revealed there were almost a thousand (972) unfilled posts, almost half of which were nursing posts, with the acute floor of the Royal Sussex County Hospital being the worst affected. The turnover rate of 14% in the area is higher than the national rate of 12%.

<http://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2017/06/10/nhs-cost-cutting-plans-revealed-as-brighton-hospital-trust-faces-losing-400-eu-staff-over-brexit/>

Report on nurse staffing at the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust:  
<https://www.bsuh.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/11/BSUH-Combined-public-Board-papers-uptd-29-November-2017.pdf>

