



UWL REPOSITORY

repository.uwl.ac.uk

The untapped potential of the student nurse.

Brooks, Abigail, Young, Amanda, Smith, Wendie and Burdett, Teresa (2025) The untapped potential of the student nurse. *Journal of Community Nursing*. pp. 8-12.

This is the Accepted Version of the final output.

UWL repository link: <https://repository.uwl.ac.uk/id/eprint/13678/>

Alternative formats: If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact: open.research@uwl.ac.uk

Copyright: Creative Commons: Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy: If you believe that this document breaches copyright, please contact us at open.research@uwl.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Author: Abigail Brooks

Role: Senior Lecturer Adult Nursing and Nursing Associates, College of Nursing Midwifery and Healthcare, UWL

Journal: Journal of Community Nursing

Section: Community Matters - Editorial

Sent: 14.03.25

Accepted: 21.03.25

The untapped potential of the student nurse

We must remember that student nurses are the future of the profession. As cheesy as this sounds, it is inherently true and an important concept for the community nursing workforce to remember. It is acknowledged that there are currently significant challenges in practice with increasing focus on care delivery at home, and limited investment and workforce to meet the demand. This overwhelm can make it hard to see how to effectively support student education, but it is essential for creating a sustainable workforce in the future. Representation matters—when students experience successful community placements, learn from community nurses, and engage in education beyond secondary care, they are more likely to consider it a viable career path. Without this exposure, community nursing risks being overlooked.

As mentioned within this article, community placements provide invaluable opportunities for students to develop autonomy, clinical decision-making, problem-solving, adaptability, and communication skills. Seeing the impact of community nursing firsthand helps shift misconceptions and highlights its complexity and value. In my experience, student nurses bring fresh perspectives and up-to-date knowledge, allowing them to positively challenge practices and contribute to the continuous improvement of patient care. Their curiosity and willingness to question, can help ensure that care remains safe, effective, and evidence based. None of us are above being questioned, and being open to this dialogue, and encouraging this criticality builds student's confidence and competence too, ensuring they enter the workforce prepared to deliver high-quality care closer to home. Ultimately, being open to supporting students within community settings strengthens the nursing profession—something that we all want and need for the future of healthcare.