



**PRESS RELEASE
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Burdett network puts patients and families centre stage

Patient engagement and acting upon ideas from patients and their families is a key way to ensure that compassionate care is put into action, was the clear message from last night's discussion at the Burdett Trust's 10th anniversary celebration.

The Trust celebrated its 10th anniversary by inviting four nursing leaders to lead a discussion on *Compassionate care: Putting the 6Cs into action*. Over 100 nurses or those with an interest in nursing attended the reception on Thursday 15 November at 11 Carlton House Terrace.

The panel comprised Dame Christine Beasley DBE, recently retired CNO, Department of Health, Eileen Sills CBE, Chief Nurse, Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Viv Bennett, the Department of Health's Director of Nursing and Lead Nurse for Public Health England and Peter Blythin, director of nursing, Trust Development Authority. The audience comprised senior practitioners from nursing and healthcare, many of whom have been recipients of grants from the Trust, or from Burdett's partner organisations.

The topic was the recent report from Jane Cummings, CNO for England and Viv Bennett entitled *Developing the culture of compassionate care: creating a new vision for nurses, midwives and care-givers* which defines the 6Cs: care, compassion, competence, communication, courage and commitment.

The audience believed that the report offered a clear vision for nursing but warned that nurses themselves needed to become more confident and courageous in leading within their healthcare teams. It needed a multi-disciplinary approach and the total support of Trust Boards to give the 6Cs traction.

Other points made by the audience were:

- Compassion is an observable action, not just a feeling
- The barriers to implementation such as stress and lack of resources need to be addressed
- There is a need to look at the whole patient journey, not just the acute part,
- Listening to patients and their families is key to making improvements in care and linking health and social care.

The points made during the symposium have been submitted to the Department of Health and the NHS Commissioning Board as part of the engagement on the report.

About the Burdett Trust

Burdett Trust for Nursing was established in 2002 when The Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses amalgamated with Liverpool Victoria Life – resulting in a charitable endowment of £47m.

Over the last ten years the Trust has supported nursing directly through funding nurse-led initiatives. It has received over 750 applications and made grants in excess of £17.8m to support over 250 projects. The Trust has made grants large and small, locally, nationally and internationally but all have been designed to empower nurses to make significant improvements to patient care

<http://www.btfn.org.uk>

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