**Abstract:** National Update: Implementing the role in practice and looking in to the future.

The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health is one of the largest Schools within Coventry University and delivers undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral courses for a range of health professions including; nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetics, paramedic science and operating department practice. Our FdSc Nursing Associate Course is offered via 2 routes, the Nursing Associate Apprenticeship route that has been running since April 2017 and our Nursing Associate fee paying UCAS route that has been running since September 2020.

Health Education England (HEE) developed the role of the Nursing Associate to bridge the gap within nursing and it was hoped that this role would help solve some of the nursing workforce shortage within England. It is no secret that the nursing workforce has been depleted and with the government target of recruiting an extra 50,000 new Nurses within the UK in 2024/25, it is likely that while recovering from the pandemic this target may need to be exceeded. The questions are where does the Nursing Associate within this target and what does that gap they are bridging look like? Also are we really using our Nursing Associates to their maximum potential?

This presentation will explore some of these questions further whilst also looking at what could be next for the role of the Nursing Associate within the workforce and opportunities for development. The presentation will look closer at the role of the Nursing Associate, discussing where the role came from and the challenges the role faces. We will be discussing examples of how the role is being utilised locally with the hope to demonstrate the positive impact the role can have on a nursing workforce.

Close working relationships with our partnership trusts are integral to the success of the Nursing Associate role, both during their student journey and as they enter the work force as a registrant, we have shared some of the feedback within this presentation from our local trusts around how they support and develop of the role within their trusts and how some use the grow your own model.