

Compassion fatigue in midwifery



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Introduction

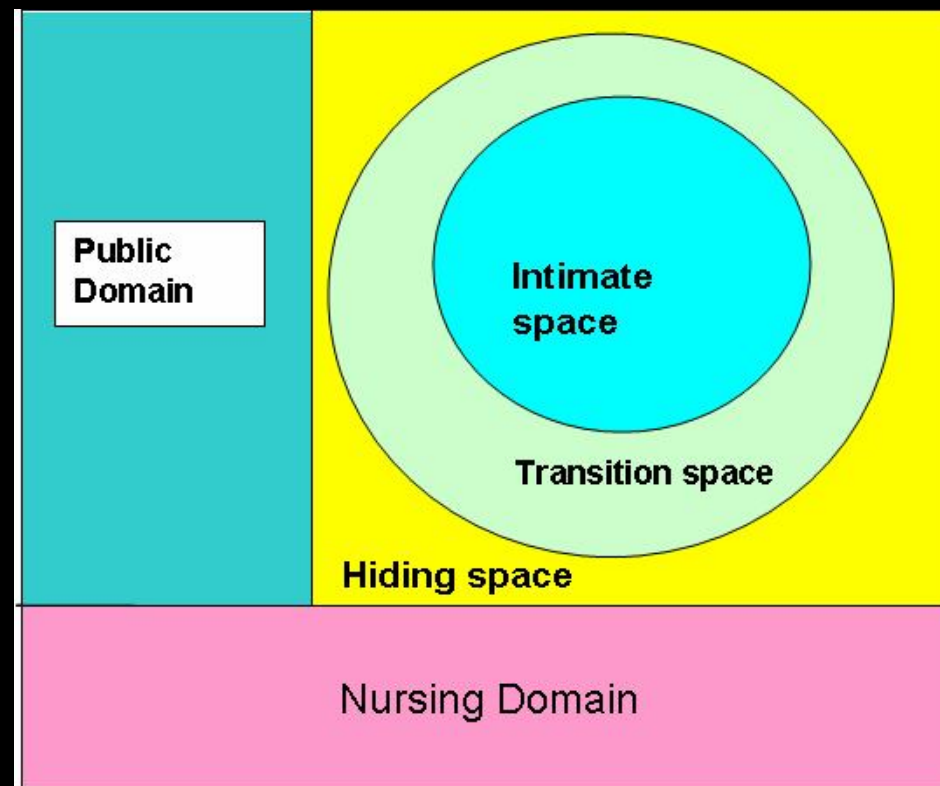
- The previous Prime Minister called for a pledge for high quality compassionate care
- Vulnerability of frontline staff
- The 'too posh to wash' culture
- Women remember everything!
(Finnerty et al 2007)
- A need for organisational compassion
(Ross 2010)

The cost of caring

- What is the emotional cost of caring?
- Have we become 'spiritually bankrupt'? (Tschudin 1997)
- Possible compassion fatigue if ignored



The 'intimate space' (Dalton 2005)



An intimate moment...



The care deficit



- De-skilling of health professionals
- Worship of computers & technology (Kitzinger 2005)
- Ritual and routine
- Backstage behaviours
- Blurred role boundaries for support workers

Compassion on the curriculum

- Aspects of midwifery are 'caught not taught'
- Definition of a 'good' midwife (Nicholls & Webb 2006)
- Compassion is on the curriculum at Napier University to embed the principles of compassionate care in education and practice

Doctoring the media

- Births on the soaps: mixed messages
- Publicity of NCT survey (2010)
- Sophisticated strategies to harness political power for women and midwives



The 'tyranny of niceness'



The NHS: Manifesto for a compassionate organisation

- Collective emotional well being eg:
- Retreats; group supervision (Deery 2005) action learning groups and Balint seminars
- Expansive versus restrictive environments for working and learning
- Peer review of caring practices
- Rewards and incentives
- Leadership in Compassionate Care initiatives

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