

# ***Sustaining positive change in the community'***

Professor Laura Serrant-Green

Professor of Community and Public health Nursing

School of Health and Social Care



All animals are equal...but some are more  
equal than others.

(Orwell 1945)



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

# Community nursing....from inception



Lady superintendants,  
sanitary inspectors  
and entrepreneurs .....

School of Health and Social Care



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

Reproduction rights obtainable from  
[www.CartoonStock.com](http://www.CartoonStock.com)



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

## **In 1902 the female inspector found**

*... a particularly unsavoury case, owing to the vermin infesting the children's heads, in addition to the filth of the whole place. The kitchen ... was occupied for all purposes by two old and invalid sisters, the dissipated son of one of them and his feeble-minded wife and three children. There was one bed, those who could not find a place at night on this filthy and uncomfortable couch 'slept anywhere'; the feeble-minded wife has made no attempt to inculcate habits of elementary decency in the children; the husband drinks and ill uses her; and food appears to be an infrequent item in the daily programme ... The one bedroom of the cottage was allotted to the brother of the occupier and in this I found four dogs and several birds; the atmosphere of the whole house was pestilential.*

(FSI report 26 Mar 1902: 5)



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

# Fit for purpose?

women inspectors should be:

- “young, handsome, attractive, beautiful, pleasant, tidy, well-educated and up to date”.

(Perth Sanitary Journal 1904)



# Community health challenges

- 1920s - Sanitation, health care and disease,
- 1930s - Free School Milk Act
- 1940s - Welfare State/NHS. Slum clearance, new towns and 'green belt'
- 1950s – Smokeless zones
- 1960s – birth control, rising birth rates
- 1980s – Inequalities in health, health informatics
- 1990s – Costs of NHS



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN



# ‘Sustaining’ positive change

*Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*

George Santayana, *The Life of Reason, Volume 1*, 1905  
US (Spanish-born) philosopher (1863 - 1952)

- [slum living](#)

# The national context

- Move to care closer to home - Darzi report and Marmot Review
- Future directions of nursing and midwifery - Frontline care
- Importance of public health and well-being agenda for workforce, patients and communities
- A new story for community nursing



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

# Frontline Care

- Theme 1: High quality, compassionate care
- Theme 2: Health and wellbeing
- Theme 3: Caring for people with long-term conditions
- Theme 4: Promoting innovation
- Theme 5: Nurses and midwives leading services
- Theme 6: Careers in nursing and midwifery



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

# Future proofing community care.....

- Everybody's business
- How we learn, experience and respond to health issues personally and professionally shapes the workforce we produce and ultimately the communities in which we live



# Our business.....Capacity and Capability

“Change needs to be animated from the  
needs and preferences of patients”  
( Lord Darzi 2008)

# “Risk and initiative”



- Back to the future
- Innovators, care champions and entrepreneurs
- Heads, hearts and hands.....



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

# The personal is political...

*"I have come to believe over and over again, that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood.... My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you.... and while we wait in silence for that final luxury of fearlessness, the weight of that silence will choke us. The fact that we are here and that I speak these words is an attempt to break that silence and bridge some of those differences between us, for it is not difference which immobilizes us, but silence. And there are so many silences to be broken."*

**Audre Lorde (1982)**

*The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action, Sister Outsider*

School of Health and Social Care



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN