



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
MIDLANDS Region Quarterly Meeting 05
Tuesday 22nd July 2025, 09:30-11:00

<u>Attending:</u>		
Jo-Anne Wilson	-	Registered Manager, Royal British Legion and Co-Chair for the Midlands SCNAC
Anita Astle	-	Managing Director, Wren Nursing Home and Chair for the Midlands SCNAC
Adem Oyekan	-	Private Secretary to the Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, DHSC
Lynne Bowers	-	ADASS, West Midlands
Joyce Fletcher	-	Employer Liaison Advisor for the Independent Sector (Midlands), NMC, attending on behalf of Tony Newman
Tony Newman	-	Regulations Advisor, Midlands Area, NMC
Jasmine Stanhope	-	Co- chair Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland ASNAC and RMN and Managing Director of Rushcliffe Care Group
Itai Nyamatore	-	Registered Manager, GAIN Care
Jaqueline Barnes	-	Regional CNO and Director of Nursing Professional & Systems Development, Midlands Region attending on behalf of Nina Morgan
Suzanne Petrie	-	Attending on behalf of Shirley Way
Lianne Ford	-	Head of Nursing, Exemplar Health Care Services
Rita Flanagan	-	Senior Regional Director, North, UK Care Services BUPA
Louise Luckman	-	Senior Clinical Quality Assurance Lead, Birmingham & Solihull ICB. Also Chair of the Social Care Nurses Network for Birmingham & Solihull.
Shirley Hall	-	Director of Care and Wellbeing, Star and Garter
Katie Thorn	-	Project Lead, Digital Care Hub
Katie Welborn	-	Head of Quality and Safety, Black Country ICB
Ryan Alsop	-	Attending on behalf of Rosa Waddingham, CNO for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB
Kim Smith	-	Practise Education Facilitator, Exemplar Health Care Services
Andrea Westlake	-	Director of Nursing for Social Care
Diane Mayhew	-	Co-Founder, Rights for Residents
Helen Sands	-	Head of All-Age Continuing Healthcare, NHS Lincolnshire ICB
Masline Chitura	-	Quality Director, Berkley Care Group
Sonia Pritchard	-	SCNACS Admin, The Outstanding Society



<u>Apologies:</u>		
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC. Adem Oyekan attending on her behalf
Jane Shephard	-	Would attend on behalf of Kathryn Cobain
Holly Gittings	-	Digital Innovation Associate, WM ADASS
Nina Morgan	-	Yvonne Higgins attending on her behalf
Rosa Waddingham	-	CNO for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB - Ryan Alsop attending on her behalf
Lizzie Edwards	-	Assistant Director: Service Delivery, Adult Social Care Directorate
Sam Preston	-	Independent Health & Social Care Lead Nurse for the East Midlands, RCN
Mike Slator	-	Project Support Specialist, VIVALDI Social Care & The OS
Kay Darby	-	CNO Birmingham & Solihull

Please see the attached spreadsheet for the action points of this meeting.

Date of Future Meetings:

- Wednesday 22nd October 2025, 9.30-11.00am
- Thursday 22nd January 2025, 9.30-11.00am

Note Summary:

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Updates: Deborah Sturdy sent her apologies and Adem Oyekan provided updates from the DHSC on her behalf:

- **Social Care Placement Strategy:** Adem announced the launch of a national social care placement strategy, developed through extensive collaboration across the sector, including the Council of Deans of Health, the NMC, Qicn, Providers, and health education institutions (HEIs). The strategy, led by Skills for Care, will be launched through a [virtual event](#) being held tomorrow (Wednesday 23rd July 2025).
- **Skills Passport Work:** Adem highlighted the skills passport work being undertaken by the London and Southeast region, which has secured funding from the FoNS. This initiative aims to enhance the skills and competencies of social care workers.
- **Learning Disability Nursing:** Adem reported on a recent roundtable discussion on learning disability nursing in social care, convened by Deb. The discussion focused on raising awareness, demonstrating impact, and driving meaningful action in this area. A plan is being developed with partners to address these issues.
- **Demand Signalling Research:** Deb is involved in a follow-up to the demand signalling research meeting hosted by the University of Salford. This research aims to identify key questions and areas of focus for social care nursing.



- **Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Awards:** Adem emphasised the importance of nominating colleagues for the [Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Awards](#), particularly as there will be reduced resources to support this programme later in the year. He encouraged timely nominations to avoid delays.

CNO Strategy: Jacqueline explained that the CNO strategy is being reviewed and refreshed with a tight timescale, aiming for completion by the end of September. The strategy will include all nurses, regardless of their sector, including social care, NHS, independent sector, and military.

10-Year Plan: Jacqueline also mentioned the 10-year plan, noting that it has less focus on social care because a separate review is planned. Sally, who led the NHS 10-year plan, will now lead the social care reform review. Jacqueline promised to share infographics and plans as they become available.

Newly Qualified Nurses and Job Vacancies: Jacqueline raised concerns about the gap between the number of newly qualified nurses graduating and the available roles. She emphasised the need to broaden social care placements and coordinate job vacancies across the private sector and social care to address this issue. She highlighted the need to broaden social care placements and coordinate job vacancies across the private sector and social care, also mentioning that the East of England has a successful app platform for advertising all job vacancies, and she is advocating for a similar platform in the Midlands. She encouraged considering roles for newly qualified nurses and urged NHS colleagues to be flexible with experience requirements.

Transition to Practice Workshop: Tony offered support with a transition to practice workshop, which includes important aspects of the nursing code and provides confidence to newly qualified nurses, especially those working in more isolated environments. He also addressed the issue of newly qualified nurses accepting healthcare assistant roles and shared the NMC's position on this matter.

Development Programme for Social Care Nurses: Louise Luckman presented a draft document outlining development opportunities for social care nurses in Birmingham and Solihull. The document includes leadership and management support courses, e-learning resources, research opportunities, and access to NHS library services, including Athens accounts and literature search support from a funded librarian. These resources aim to support social care nurses in their professional development and research activities. The group discussed the potential for expanding the development programme to a regional level. This would involve collaboration with other ICBs to ensure a consistent and comprehensive offer of development opportunities across the region.

Digital and AI Updates: Katie Thorne provided updates on the digitising social care programme, which is concluding its current phase and planning for phase two. The next phase will focus on developing a social care interoperability platform and establishing standards and assurance for a



broader range of care technologies. Katie announced the publication of AI guidance specifically for social care, which aims to support the implementation and use of AI technologies in the sector. She provided a link to the [published guidance](#) for further reference

Security Protection Toolkit: Katie mentioned that 77% of all CQC registered providers are now compliant with the security protection toolkit standards, covering about 85% of all people using care and support services in the country. This is the highest compliance rate to date.

Dysphagia and Choking Risks: Andrea and Louise highlighted the issue of dysphagia and choking risks in social care settings. They discussed the need for better support from speech and language therapists:

- **Dysphagia Safety Workshop:** Andrea and Louise reported on the success of a dysphagia safety workshop, which attracted 250 participants, including care workers, nurses, and support workers. The high attendance demonstrated the significant need and interest in addressing dysphagia safety in social care settings.
- **Speech and Language Therapy Support:** Andrea and Louise emphasized the need for better support from speech and language therapists to address dysphagia and choking risks. They highlighted the challenges in accessing timely and adequate support due to workforce shortages and funding constraints.
- **Best Practices and Resources:** The group discussed the importance of sharing best practices and resources to improve dysphagia safety. Louise mentioned the availability of resources from Nottingham and the Black Country, which could be used to support training and awareness efforts in other regions.

Care Home Admissions: Andrea expressed concerns about the default practice of admitting people to care homes and emphasised the need for better commissioning of care to support people in their own homes. She highlighted the importance of person-centred care and the need to support domiciliary care providers.

National Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme: Jacqueline mentioned the National Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme, which aims to accelerate neighbourhood working and improve care coordination. She emphasised the importance of involving social care in the bids being submitted by ICBs and ensuring that social care is integrated into the programme.

Visiting Restrictions in Care Homes: Diane provided an update on the survey conducted by Rights for Residents, which found that one in four respondents faced blanket bans on visiting since the introduction of Regulation 9A. She emphasised the importance of essential care supporters and the need for legislation to ensure their presence during pandemics or infections.