



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
SOUTHEAST Region Virtual Quarterly Meeting 05
Thursday 31st July 2025 – 09:30-11:00

<u>Attending:</u>		
Zoe Fry	-	Executive Director – The Outstanding Society CIC SCNAC Chair, Southeast Region
Scarlett MacDonald	-	New Commissioning Manager – Caring Homes Group SCNAC Co-Chair, Southeast Region
Adem Oyekan	-	Department of Health & Social Care on behalf of Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care
Andrea Lewis RRC	-	Regional CNO, Southeast – NHS England
Anne Smith	-	Lead for Infection, Prevention & Control for Brighton and Hove City Council
Sue Dorling	-	SESCA (Southeast Social Care Alliance) Representative and Development Officer, Berkshire Care Association
Melanie Bessant	-	Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, also representing BOB (Buckinghamshire, Oxford and Berkshire ICB) and attending on behalf of Sarah Bellars, CNO for Frimley ICB
Lynne Birt	-	Clinical Quality Manager, NHS Hampshire & Isle of Wight in Local Care and Supporting Care Homes
Rian Gleave	-	Lead Nurse: Independent Health & Social Care (Southeast), Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
Marianne Davies	-	Locality Manager, Skills for Care
Loucia Kyprianou	-	National Regulation Advisor Independent Health and Care, NMC, attending on behalf of David Porter and Nicola Moreton
Tim O'Shaughnessy	-	Head of Quality Local Care for NHS Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, attending on behalf of Wendy Newnham, Deputy CNO.
Shelly Hickey	-	Head of Quality & Governance, Aria Care
Marisa Spice	-	Head of Learning & Development (RN) – Nellsar Care Homes. Also, Operations & Compliance Manager for two learning disability homes in Bromley
Kate Meacock	-	Campaigner, Rights for Residents
Vicki Gray	-	Regional Safeguarding Lead for NHS England, Southeast - Presenting
Pat Conteh	-	Head of Clinical Services, Prestige Nursing & Care
Joanna Grant	-	Director of Nursing, NCS Healthcare
Claire Pegg	-	Health & Care Director for NMAHPs for the Research Delivery Network and Programme Lead for Research, NHSE



Adam Smith	-	Nurse Consultant, RMN and Chief Clinical & Quality Officer at Acuity Care Group (previously Deputy Director of Nursing at Hampshire & Isle of Wight NHS)
Sonia Pritchard	-	SCNACS Administrator and EA for The Outstanding Society

<u>Apologies:</u>		
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care - DHSC
Varda Lassman	-	Corporate Deputy Chief Nurse, Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Alison Cannon	-	CNO for NHS Sussex ICB
Rachael Corser	-	CNO for NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West ICB
Helen Cheney	-	Health Protection Lead, Public Health, East Sussex
Nicky Lucey	-	CNO for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Wendy Newnam attending on her behalf
David Porter	-	Regulation Adviser – NMC, Loucia Kyprianou attending on his behalf
Wendy Newnam	-	Deputy CNO, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Tim O'Shaughnessy will attend on her behalf and Lynne Birt will be joining to shadow.
Paul Lumsdon	-	CNO, Kent & Medway

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Thursday 23rd October 2025, 9.30am-11.00am
- Thursday 29th January 2026, 9.30am-11.00am

Summary Notes:

Zoe's Role Change: Zoe announced that she will be stepping down as Co-Chair for the Southeast region to focus on overseeing the seven regional councils as part of the Outstanding Society's contract with Skills for Care. She will still be involved in the council but not as Co-chair.

New Co-Chair: Pat Conteh will be stepping in as the new Co-Chair for the Southeast region, working alongside Scarlett. Zoe expressed her gratitude to Pat for taking on this role.



Update from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC): Adem provided an update on behalf of Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse of Adult Social Care:

- **National Social Care Placement Strategy:** Adem mentioned the launch of the [National Social Care Placement Strategy](#), which aims to increase the number of undergraduate students taking placements in social care.
- **Strategy Launch:** The National Social Care Placement Strategy was launched on 23rd July, developed through extensive collaboration across the sector, including organisations like the Council of Deans of Health, NMC, Queens Institute for Community Nursing, and providers. The strategy aims to increase the number of undergraduate students taking placements in social care.
- **Collaboration:** The strategy was led by Skills for Care on behalf of the DHSC, involving collaboration with various stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive approach to increasing placements in social care.
- **Social Care Research:** Adem discussed ongoing work in social care research led by Professor Claire Pryor at the University of Salford, focusing on potential research questions and a follow-up meeting.
- **Skills Passport Work:** Adem mentioned the Skills Passport work led by the London and Southeast regions, which has secured funding from the Foundation of Nursing Studies (FoNS).
- **Learning Disability Nursing:** Adem highlighted a recent round table discussion on learning disability nursing in social care, focusing on raising awareness, demonstrating impact, and driving meaningful action.
- **Social Care Nursing Podcast:** Adam informed the group about a recent podcast recorded by Deborah Sturdy with Dr. Richard Hatchett, titled "[Social Care Nursing: why it's where to start not end your career.](#)"
- **Engagement with Nursing Journals:** Adem shared that Deborah Sturdy has been working with Lucy Gillespie from Skills for Care to increase the visibility and presence of social care nursing in professional publications.
- **Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Awards:** Adem reminded the group to continue nominating colleagues for the [Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Awards](#), as there will be reduced resources to support the programme later in the year.
- **Nurse Prescribing Pilot:** Adem announced a government-funded pilot to increase the number of nurses in social care who can undertake courses for prescribing. The pilot is funded until the end of March, and applications for the funding are encouraged.
- **Complex Care Inclusion:** Joanna inquired whether the nurse prescribing pilot would include complex care. Adem confirmed that the focus is on social care, including



complex care, and detailed information will be provided by the regulated professions team.

- **Existing Prescribers:** Scarlett raised the issue of existing prescribers in social care and the need for access to governance systems through ICBs. Adem agreed to take this forward and address the opportunity to include existing prescribers in the pilot.

NHS and DHSC Merger: Andrea provided an update on the ongoing merger between NHS England and the DHSC, highlighting the radical changes and design work taking place. The new national team will be called the Department of Health and Social Care national team.

- **Regional Teams:** The regional teams will remain, with seven regions continuing but becoming smaller and leaner. The ambition is to reduce by 50%, with a strengthened role going forward.
- **Integrated Care Boards (ICBs):** ICBs are working through their reductions and new functions, focusing on strategic commissioning. Various working groups have been set up to navigate specific areas such as safeguarding and continuing healthcare.

Nursing and Midwifery Strategy: Andrea discussed the development of a new nursing and midwifery strategy, emphasising the importance of social care representation and the goal to publish the strategy by the end of the year.

- **Strategy Development:** Working groups will be formed to address different chapters of the strategy, aiming for publication by the end of the year.
- **Social Care Inclusion:** Andrea emphasised the importance of including social care in the strategy, ensuring proper representation and collaboration with social care professionals.

Penny Dash Review: Andrea recommended reading the [Penny Dash Review](#), which provides recommendations on streamlining the regulatory and ombudsman body landscape to reduce duplication.

Student Nurse Employment: Andrea addressed concerns about student nurses finding jobs, noting that the Southeast region has more vacancies due to the cost of living, while other regions have more students than available positions.

Clinical Competency Framework: Scarlett provided an update on the clinical competency framework, which has received funding to be developed into a skills passport for nurses working in different environments within social care.

Delegated Healthcare: Scarlett mentioned ongoing work on delegated healthcare, medication sustainability, and the new leadership model, with a focus on improving outcomes and reducing inequalities.



Brighton Pride: Scarlett announced that adult social care nurses will be participating in Brighton Pride, with Andrea joining the team to represent both social care and the NHS.

New Internship Programme: Claire introduced a new internship programme replacing the ICAP, aimed at registered professionals in health and care settings to gain research experience and understanding.

Safeguarding Task and Finish Group: Victoria announced the formation of a combined meeting of social care nursing colleagues and the NHS Forum for Safeguarding Adults on 11th August to explore priorities and potential task and finish groups.

Emotional Impact of Safeguarding: Marisa highlighted the emotional toll on care home managers dealing with safeguarding incidents and the need for support and well-being measures.

Central Repository and Communication: Zoe emphasised the need for a central repository and communication plan for adult social care, with a focus on reaching all nurses and colleagues within the sector.

Care Show Birmingham: Zoe mentioned the upcoming Care Show in Birmingham on 9th and 10th October, where various organisations will come together to support and engage with social care nurses. Please [click here](#) to book your free tickets.

Zoe's Departure as Co-chair: Andrea and the group thanked Zoe for her contributions as Co-Chair and acknowledged her impact on the Southeast Council, with Zoe confirming her continued involvement in the meetings.

Next Steps

- Review membership of council
- Disseminate information re becoming a member – not just trained nurses
- Review members who haven't attended – Zoe to make direct contact
- Send date again for safeguarding meeting
- Central Repository – task and finish group volunteers required