



**Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)**  
**NORTHWEST Region Virtual Quarterly Meeting 05**  
**Wednesday 23rd July 2025, 09:30-11:00**

<b><u>Attending:</u></b>		
Karen Davies	-	Chair of Northwest SCNAC & Senior Nurse, HC-One
Michelle Howarth	-	Co-Chair of Northwest SCNAC & Professor in Health and Social Care, Edge Hill University
Adem Oyekan	-	Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC)
Pauline Palmer-Charlery	-	NMC Regulation Adviser Employment Link Service
James McClean	-	Regional Chief Nurse, NHSE NW
Carol Mitchell	-	Senior Regional Transformation Lead, Northwest, Skills for Care (temporarily covering nursing workstream)
Adele Thornburn	-	Lead Nurse, NHS
Abbie Cliffe	-	Clinical Lead, Cavalry Care Group
Janette Dunkerley	-	Regional Research Delivery Network Northwest Health and Care (NMAHP), NIHR
Sana Din	-	Employment Link Service Advisor for NW & IoM, NMC
Kamran Beg	-	Head of Northwest Region, Skills for Care
Julie York	-	Senior Clinical Governance and Practice Development Manager for Community Integrated Care (CIC)
Susan Clarke	-	Social Care Workforce Development Manager, GM - NHSE
Melissa Stanton	-	Lead Nurse Independent Health & Social Care, RCN
Beverly Gallagher	-	UEC Transformation Manager, Out of Hospital, Ageing Well & Care Sector Senior Manager - UEC & ROC NHSE (Northwest)
Sarah Kennedy	-	Current position: Senior Lecturer at University of Bolton New position from end August: Care Sector Clinical Fellow, Wigan, Warrington & Leigh Teaching Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust
Barbara Johnson	-	Director of Nursing, Risedale Estates
Keith Ley	-	Attending on behalf of Chapel House Care
Marie Lovell	-	Skills for Care
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society and SCNACs Administrator
<b><u>Apologies:</u></b>		
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC (Adem Okeyan attending on her behalf)
Emily Devitt	-	Director of Nursing, Risedale Estates
Maxine Emslie	-	Admiral Nurse, Trinity Hospice & Brian House
Sarah O'Brien	-	NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB



Sue Noon	-	Social Care and PIVO Workforce Development Manager, Cheshire & Merseyside ICB
Chris Douglas	-	CNO and Executive Director of Nursing & Care, Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
Mandy Philbin	-	ICB CNO, Greater Manchester
Lydia Vallance-Prentice	-	Northwest Care Sector and Ageing Well Lead, attends on behalf of Beverly Gallagher
Craig Priestley	-	Registered Manager, Gorsey Clough Nursing Home
Michelle Tennant	-	Clinical Governance Lead for Home Instead
Melanie Stephens	-	Associate Professor Adult Nursing, Salford University
Peter Weller	-	NHS Greater Manchester ICB
Emma Orton	-	NWAS

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

#### **Date of Future Meetings:**

- Monday 13th October 2025, 09:30-11:00
- Friday 23rd January 2026, 09:30-11:00

#### **Summary Notes:**

**New Members Introduction:** New members of the SCNAC introduced themselves, sharing their roles and responsibilities:

- **Sana Din:** Sana introduced herself as the new NMC Employment Link Service Advisor for the Northwest, focusing on Adult Social Care within the Northwest and the Isle of Man. She mentioned the expansion into independent health and social care, with seven advisors recruited across the four nations. She expressed excitement about the role and the opportunity to support each other.
- **James McLean:** James introduced himself as the Regional Chief Nurse for NHS England Northwest, sharing the role with Jackie Hanson, who is about to retire. He will be taking over her portfolio.
- **Kamran Beg:** Kamran introduced himself as the new Head of Region for Skills for Care, taking over from Lindsay Dawson.
- **Adele Thornburn:** Adele introduced herself, representing Jane Brennan from Lancashire, South Cumbria ICB, as the Senior Care Sector Clinical Lead.
- **Jeanette Dunkerley:** Jeanette introduced herself as the Health and Care Director for Nurses, Midwives, and AHPS for the Northwest Regional Research Delivery Network, invited to the council by Michelle Howarth.

**Department of Health Update:** Adem Oyekan provided an update on behalf of Deborah Sturdy:



- **Social Care Placement Strategy:** Adem announced the launch of the National Social Care Placement Strategy, developed through extensive collaboration across the sector, including the Council of Deans of Health, the NMC, the Queen's Institute for Community Nursing (Qicn), Providers, and higher education institutions (HEIs). The strategy is led by Skills for Care on behalf of the DHSC.
- **Skills Passport Work:** Adem mentioned the secured agreement with the Foundation of Nursing Studies (FoNS) to fund the skills passport work, led by the London and SE regions. This initiative aims to support the development of skills in social care.
- **Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Awards:** Adem highlighted the importance of the Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Awards, encouraging nominations for colleagues and teams doing outstanding work. He mentioned the potential reduced resources to support the programme later in the year and the importance of early nominations. Form for nomination is [here](#).
- **Care Workers' Week, September 2025:** Adem also highlighted the Care Worker's week taking place and the importance of nominating and participating in this incentive.
- **Learning Disability Nursing Round Table:** Adem reported on a recent learning disability nursing round table focused on raising awareness, demonstrating impact, and driving meaningful action in LD nursing in social care. The discussions involved partners and experts, including Michael Fullerton, and plans for continued work in this area.
- **Social Care Nursing Visibility:** Adem shared that Deb Sturdy is working to increase the visibility and presence of social care nursing in professional publications, collaborating with Lucy Gillespie and meeting with lead editors of several nursing journals to encourage conversations on this topic.

**Action Points from Last Meeting:** Karen asked attendees to update on action points from the last meeting and mentioned that she and Michelle would follow up with individuals who have outstanding action points.

- **Newly Qualified Practitioners:** Adele inquired about the plans for newly qualified practitioners (NQPs) who may not find jobs in the NHS. She mentioned a scheme in development with prisons and Adult Social Care to find placements for NQPs.
- **Support for NQPs:** Susan provided an update on the support for NQPs, mentioning various trusts' approaches, a planned student webinar, and ongoing communications to support students. She also mentioned organising a student webinar about nursing in social care.
- **Regional Efforts:** James mentioned efforts in the Northwest to support NQPs, including mutual aid around preceptorship programmes and collaboration with NHS



professionals. He highlighted the responsibility of social care to step up and offer job opportunities for NQPs.

- **Preceptorship Programmes:** Carol shared information about upcoming webinars for social care organisations on providing preceptorships, aimed at those leading the development of preceptorships and the actual preceptors. The webinars will use the national framework and existing resources.
- **NMC Messaging:** Paula mentioned discussions with Jean and Claire Harrington about the challenges for NQPs and the potential messaging from the NMC regarding delays in registration due to working in support roles. She will share any updates from the NMC on this matter.

**Theory of Change Workshop:** Michelle proposed hosting a theory of change workshop to develop measurable outcomes and inputs to support a student-ready environment. She explained the purpose of the workshop and invited participants to join, highlighting the importance of strategic development and realistic plans. Michelle mentioned that the workshop would be held online, lasting one to two hours, and would involve key stakeholders to identify goals and develop a logic model to measure progress. She encouraged participants to email her if they were interested in joining. Carol Mitchell, Abbie Cliffe and Melissa Stanton would be interested in finding out more / support.

**Social Care Learning Environments:** Susan provided an update on the GM Social Care Learning Environments Group, mentioning a temporary pause in some activities to focus on urgent issues related to newly qualified nurses and preceptorship. She highlighted the importance of reviewing progress in the autumn.

**Nursing CPD:** Susan mentioned that most nursing CPD in GM and other areas had ended due to lack of funding, but some ongoing online and app-based offers were available through the GM Social Care Academy.

**Webinar for Learners:** Susan announced a learner webinar on nursing in social care, with over 200 participants signed up. The webinar aims to strengthen relationships between employers and HEIs and promote social care as a career option for newly qualified nurses.

**Preceptorship Scoping:** Susan discussed a scoping and mapping exercise in GM to outline the current state and future needs for preceptorship in social care. The exercise aims to identify gaps and develop resources in partnership with colleagues across the system.

**Social Care Placements:** Susan highlighted the inclusion of social care placements in the 10-year plan and mentioned that HEIs in GM and Lancaster S Cumbria were continuing to support social care placements despite the end of previous models due to lack of funding.

**Joint Role Development:** Michelle Howarth and Sarah discussed the new Care Sector Clinical Fellow role:



- **Role Overview:** Funded by Wigan, Wrightington, and Leigh teaching hospitals, along with Edge Hill, the role aims to support blended roles and delegated tasks in social care, providing stronger social care nursing voice at a locality level.
- **Role Objectives:** The primary objectives of the role include supporting and developing blended roles, operationalising strategies to attract and retain future nursing staff, leading initiatives to address inequalities, and enhancing cross-sector learning by ensuring every learner undertakes at least one social care placement.
- **Role Implementation:** Sarah shared her excitement about starting the role on 26th August and mentioned upcoming meetings to discuss how the role will be operationalised. She highlighted the opportunity to continue and develop ongoing work in social care.

**Skills for Care Prevention Programme:** Marie Lovell presented the Skills for Care Prevention Programme, focusing on behaviour change, dementia support, and reducing unhelpful hospital admissions.

**Research Update:** Jeanette Dunkerley provided an update on the NIHR and the Northwest RDN, highlighting the social care nursing research internships and champions, and the AHP research leader programme.

**Regional Updates:** Sana requested a slot in the next meeting to present more about their role and how they will be supporting Adult Social care.