



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
NORTHWEST Region Virtual Quarterly Meeting 06
Monday 13th October 2025, 09:30-11:00

<u>Attending:</u>		
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	-	On behalf of Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care at the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC)
Michelle Tennant	-	Clinical Governance Lead for Home Instead
Janette Dunkerley	-	Regional Research Delivery Network Northwest Health and Care (NMAHP), NIHR
Chris Douglas	-	CNO and Executive Director of Nursing & Care, Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
Jo Willis	-	Northern Healthcare
Jessica Gaul	-	Student Nurse, Edge Hill University
Alison Small	-	RGN and General Manager for Belsfield Care
Barbara Johnson	-	Director of Nursing, Risedale Estates
Sana Din	-	Employment Link Service Advisor for NW & IoM, NMC
Lizzy Hutton	-	HC-One - attending on behalf of Sue Noon
Kamran Beg	-	Head of Northwest Region, Skills for Care
Melanie Stephens	-	Associate Professor Adult Nursing, Salford University
Ian Nelson	-	Locality Manager, Skills for Care
Sarah Kennedy	-	Joint Care Sector Clinical Fellow, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh Teaching Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust
Lydia Vallance-Prentice	-	Northwest Care Sector and Ageing Well Lead, attends on behalf of Beverly Gallagher
Joanne Murray	-	Caring UK
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society and SCNACs Administrator

<u>Apologies:</u>		
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC (Adem Okeyan attending on her behalf)
Sue Noon	-	Social Care and PIVO Workforce Development Manager, Cheshire & Merseyside ICB – Lizzy Hutton attending on her behalf
Emma Orton	-	NWAS
Mandy Philbin	-	ICB CNO, Greater Manchester
Peter Weller	-	NHS Greater Manchester ICB
Julie York	-	Senior Clinical Governance and Practice Development Manager for Community Integrated Care (CIC)



Melissa Stanton	-	Lead Nurse Independent Health & Social Care, RCN
Susan Clarke	-	Social Care Workforce Development Manager, GM - NHSE
James McClean	-	Regional Chief Nurse, NHSE NW
Jane Scattergood	-	Interim ICB CNO, Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB
Beverly Gallagher	-	UEC Transformation Manager, Out of Hospital, Ageing Well & Care Sector Senior Manager - UEC & ROC NHSE (Northwest)
Pauline Palmer-Charlery	-	NMC Regulation Adviser Employment Link Service
Craig Priestley	-	Registered Manager, Gorsey Clough Nursing Home

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Friday 23rd January 2026, 09:30-11:00
- TBC April/May 2026

Summary Notes:

Update from Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- **Nurse Prescribing Pilots:** Adem Oyekan reported that the nurse prescribing pilots are awaiting a memorandum of understanding before formal announcements can be made, with expected updates on participating ICBs to be released imminently, a blog and engagement activities planned to support the initiative.
- **Undergraduate Placement Strategy:** Adem explained that the undergraduate placement strategy, launched in July, will enter its second phase with an event on 11 November, and details will be shared to encourage participation and further development of student placements in social care.
- **Global Majority Network Launch:** Adem announced the launch of the Skills for Care Global Majority Network, encouraging regional teams to actively promote the network and offering to provide further information as needed.
<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Regulated-professions/Nursing/Join-the-nursing-community.aspx#Forums>
- **Nursing Strategy Consultation:** Adem highlighted the extension of the deadline for comments on the Chief Nursing Officer's 10-year vision strategy (now closed), urging all members to contribute feedback to shape the future of nursing and midwifery.
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/nursingmidwifery/professional-strategy-for-nursing-and-midwifery/>
- **Internal Departmental Changes:** Adem noted internal changes at the DHSC, including a merger with NHS England, and informed the group that Deborah Sturdy will be working three days a week and taking planned sick leave shortly, with her inbox monitored for ongoing communication.



Development of Joint Care Sector Clinical Fellow Role: Sarah Kennedy introduced her new role as Joint Care Sector Clinical Fellow at Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh Teaching Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust, outlining her focus on expanding student nursing placements, supporting rotational posts for newly qualified nurses, and upskilling social care staff, with input and questions from Michelle, Janette, Karen and Barbara addressing practicalities and collaboration opportunities.

- **Student Nursing Placements Expansion:** Sarah described efforts to increase student nursing placements in social care settings, particularly in partnership with Edge Hill University, by preparing both staff and students for placements and promoting social care as a valuable career destination.
- **Rotational Posts for Newly Qualified Nurses:** Sarah detailed the creation of six 18-month rotational posts for newly qualified nurses, involving placements in care homes and NHS settings, with the option to choose a final placement and transition to employment in the preferred sector, and ongoing support for preceptorship.
- **Upskilling Social Care Staff:** Sarah outlined plans to develop blended learning outcomes aimed at upskilling experienced social care staff to undertake more clinical tasks, potentially alleviating pressure on community and district nursing roles.
- **Evaluation and Outcome Measurement:** In response to Michelle's query, Sarah identified key outcomes for evaluation, such as reducing hospital admissions from care settings, and emphasised the importance of both qualitative and quantitative data in assessing the impact of the initiatives.
- **Practical and Financial Considerations:** Barbara raised questions about pay differentials and terms for nurses on secondment to care homes, to which Sarah responded that financial and contractual details are being actively worked through with stakeholders to ensure alignment and mutual benefit.

Stakeholder Engagement and Expanding Representation: Michelle led a discussion on broadening stakeholder engagement

- **Identifying Gaps in Representation:**
- Participants identified underrepresented groups such as pharmacists, hospices, and acute providers, and discussed the importance of including these stakeholders to enhance the group's reach and impact.
- **Engagement with Service Users and Carers:** Michelle emphasised the importance of including service users, relatives, and carers in stakeholder engagement, and sought input on how to reach these groups and integrate their perspectives into the group's work.
- **Regional and Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Lydia and Lizzy highlighted opportunities for collaboration with acute providers, virtual wards, and pharmacy student placements,



offering to share contacts and updates to strengthen cross-sector links and support the shift from hospital to community care.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Scoping Review on Social Care and Healthy Ageing:

Michelle presented the ongoing RCN scoping review project, aiming to map evidence on how social care enables healthy ageing and how this can inform educational strategies:

- **Scoping Review Objectives and Questions:** Michelle explained that the review will systematically map evidence on the contribution of social care to healthy ageing, focusing on adult social care, and will explore how findings can inform student and staff education.
- **Challenges in Measuring Impact:** Michelle and others discussed the complexity of demonstrating direct impact of educational practice on outcomes such as hospital admissions, and the need to consider qualitative evidence and value-added models.
- **Addressing Social Isolation and Well-being:** Alison and Michelle highlighted the significance of social isolation in care settings, sharing examples of interventions (such as gardening and intergenerational activities) that promote engagement and well-being among residents.

Student Perspectives and Placement Value: Jessica shared experiences from student placements in social care, emphasising opportunities for autonomy, skill development, and positive contributions to resident well-being, reinforcing the value of diverse placement models.

Research Capacity Building and Internship Programmes: Janette provided an update:

- **Social Care Nursing Research Interns:** Janette announced the recruitment of 23 social care nursing research interns for a one-year programme, with seven based in the Northwest, covering areas such as mental health, dementia, palliative care, and domiciliary support.
- **Programme Structure and Support:** The internship programme is supported by the University of Liverpool and the Northwest R&D team, providing one day per week for research activities, mentorship, and access to university resources, with plans for regular meetings and networking.
- **Future Cohorts and Regional Engagement:** Melanie and Janette discussed the continuation of the programme with five years of funding secured, encouraging early preparation for future cohorts and suggesting that current interns be invited to group meetings to share their projects.
- **Research Leadership and Master's Opportunities:** Updates were provided on the NIHR Senior Research Leadership Programme and the Insight master's programme, noting the need to increase social care representation in future application rounds.



Regional Updates and International Recruitment Challenges: Karen invited regional updates:

- **NMC Code and Revalidation Consultation:** Sana informed the group about the ongoing NMC consultation on the code and revalidation, encouraging responses from adult social care settings and providing a link for survey participation.
- **International Recruitment and Visa Concerns:** Barbara highlighted ongoing uncertainties regarding visa requirements for internationally recruited staff, particularly those present before July, and the financial challenges of re-employing displaced overseas staff, prompting the group to request national advocacy on these issues.

Upcoming Events and Communication Initiatives: Michelle and Karen promoted upcoming events:

- **International Roundtable Event:** Michelle announced the International Roundtable event chaired by Lucy Gillespie, focusing on person-centred care and shared decision-making, with a diverse panel and plans to produce an infographic summarising the debate.
- **Regional Newsletter Development:** Karen requested contributions for a new regional newsletter to be distributed quarterly (and potentially monthly), aiming to disseminate updates, research, and best practice across the Northwest and beyond.