



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
MIDLANDS Region Quarterly Meeting 07
Wednesday 14th January 2026, 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
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC. Adem Oyekan attending on her behalf
Andrea Barker	-	LINCA
Mark Turton	-	Director of Lincolnshare Care Association and Head of Workforce, CareinLincs
Diane Mayhew	-	Co-Founder, Rights for Residents
Joyce Fletcher	-	Employer Link Service Adviser for the Independent Health and Social Care (Midlands), NMC
Shirley Way	-	Head of Area for East & West Midlands, Skills for Care
Lucy McDonald	-	Senior Transformation Lead (Midlands), Skills for Care
Lynne Bowers	-	ADASS, West Midlands
Richard Ayres	-	Social Care Advisor, Care England
Sam Preston	-	Lead Nurse Independent Health & Social Care for the East Midlands, RCN
Vicky Sandy-Davies	-	Independent Health & Social Care Lead Nurse, RCN
Sevim Hodge	-	Postdoctoral Researcher, Wolfson Inst. Of Population Health, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Queen Mary Uni of London
Shirley Hall	-	Director of Care and Wellbeing, Star and Garter
Shanci Mathew	-	Registered Manager, Morton Grange Nursing Home
Lorna Hollowood	-	Assistant Professor in Nursing, University of Birmingham and Clinical Associate with Gold Standards Framework and PhD Student – currently collecting data in UK Care Homes
Sonia Pritchard	-	SCNACS Admin, The Outstanding Society
<u>Apologies:</u>		
Zoë Fry	-	Exec Director of Nursing, The OS
Katie Thorn	-	Project Lead, Digital Care Hub
Sally Roberts	-	CNO, Black Country and West Birmingham
Nina Morgan	-	Regional CNO, Midlands
Jaqueline Barnes	-	Regional CNO and Director of Nursing Professional & Systems Development, Midlands Region



Yvonne Higgins	-	CNO Northamptonshire
Ryan Alsop	-	Attends meeting on behalf of Rosa Waddingham, CNO for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
Mike Slator	-	Project Support Specialist, VIVALDI Social Care & The OS
Charlie Bitchenor	-	Training Manager, Heritage Manor
Alan Fry	-	Head of Operations, The OS
Rita Flanagan	-	Senior Regional Director, North, UK Care Services BUPA
Kathryn Cobain	-	CNO, Worcestershire & Herefordshire
Lisa Hughes	-	Home Manager, Ardenlea Grove Care Home (BUPA)
Diane Kareen-Charles	-	Deputy CNO, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Tuesday 12th May 2026, 09:30-11:00

Note Summary:

Regional Workforce and Digital Development Updates: Ongoing priorities were discussed:

- **Digital and Workforce Priorities:** Anita highlighted that digital and workforce development remain core regional priorities, with ongoing work in social care digital initiatives. Update from Katie Thorn will be requested and circulated with the meeting follow up.
- **Regulation 9A and IPC Guidance:** Concerns were raised about changes in access to vaccinations and eligibility, with Anita noting that Adem was to provide requested at the last meeting, but he has now left Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) so she will follow up with Deborah Sturdy. Lynne confirmed that UKHSA references had been updated and she would circulate further information.
- **Non-Medical Prescribing Challenges:** Anita reported that the Midlands performed well in securing contracts for non-medical prescribing, but nurse recruitment fell short of targets, with only 5 out of an expected 35 nurses secured in Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire due to shortages of designated prescribing practitioners and GP workload.
- **Nurse Training and Research:** Anita shared that nurses in Nottinghamshire were starting their training programme, and she was interviewed by DHSC researchers as part of a project evaluating the initiative, with ongoing feedback to be collected.

Dysphagia Toolkit and Collaborative Projects: The progress of the Dysphagia toolkit was discussed:

- **Care England Choking Paper:** Richard Ayres described Care England's nearly completed choking paper, developed with a working group and external experts, aimed at supporting



people with learning disabilities and broader audiences, with a web-based solution and support materials.

- **Collaboration Opportunities:** Richard and Anita agreed to explore combining the choking paper with the Dysphagia toolkit, recognising the potential for a phased approach and multiple launches to maximise impact and awareness.
- **Toolkit Implementation:** Jo-Anne noted ongoing work on the Dysphagia toolkit, with a follow-up meeting scheduled to review progress, next steps and plans to share outcomes with the group.

Council and Skills for Care Updates: Updates were provided on CQC inspections, the Fair Pay Award consultation, student and workforce initiatives, and regional integration efforts:

- **CQC Inspection Focus:** Lynne reported that recent CQC inspections emphasised support for regulated professionals, including social care nurses and occupational therapists, and encouraged colleagues to contribute to the Fair Pay Award consultation.
- **Professional Recognition and Awards:** Anita encouraged nominations for the Chief Nursing Officers Awards, aiming to celebrate outstanding work in the Midlands, and Lynne advocated for sharing case studies to support documentation and raise awareness.
- **Student and Workforce Initiatives:** Shirley Way highlighted the launch of the Social Care Students in Really Careers Network, new modules for registered managers, and upcoming webinars/focus groups to support student placements and workforce development.
- **Regional Integration and Skills:** Lucy detailed ongoing work to baseline integration across ICB systems, support neighbourhood health development, and promote participation in local skills improvement plans, with efforts to amplify the voice of adult social care.

NMC Strategy and Consultations: Joyce outlined the NMC's refreshed strategy for 2025–2027, including new values and workstreams focused on trust, fitness to practise, and EDI, with recent consultations on the Code of Conduct and revalidation.

Update from the DHSC - National Strategy Developments:

- **Social Care Representation:** Deborah Sturdy described ongoing efforts to ensure social care nurses are represented in NMC processes, including plans for a four-country online event on fitness to practise and revalidation, and the importance of recognising the unique context of social care.
- **Research and National Initiatives:** Deborah highlighted research collaborations with the University of Salford and NIHR, the upcoming publication of nursing research priorities, and the launch of the Global Majority Network by Skills for Care.



- **Organisational Changes:** Deborah reported on the merger of NHS England into the DHSC, voluntary exits affecting her team, and the ongoing prioritisation of work amidst significant organisational change.

Access to Allied Health Services and Systemic Barriers: Challenges in accessing occupational therapy, podiatry, and transport services for care home residents, highlighting systemic barriers, funding issues, and the need for escalation and data collection:

- **Service Access Challenges:** Shanci described difficulties in obtaining OT and podiatry support for residents with dementia, as well as issues with hospital transport referrals, noting that these problems have become more common and are often attributed to funding and policy changes.
- **Policy and Escalation:** Lynne emphasised that care home residents are entitled to professional support regardless of funding source and called for escalation to chief nurses when services are denied, citing professional codes of conduct.
- **Data Collection and Advocacy:** Anita and Lynne agreed on the importance of collecting data on service denials to support escalation and advocacy efforts, with input from the RCN and Skills for Care.

Hospital Admission, Discharge, and Documentation Issues: Concerns were raised about inconsistencies in hospital admission and discharge processes:

- **DNAR and Documentation:** Richard reported that digital DNAR records are sometimes not accepted by NHS staff, leading to inappropriate resuscitation, and highlighted the challenges of ensuring paperwork is available during hospital transfers.
- **Medication and Discharge:** Richard and Jo-Anne discussed the risks associated with residents returning from hospital without necessary medication or discharge letters, particularly in residential settings without on-site nurses.
- **Communication Gaps:** The group noted ongoing frustrations with the red bag system and the lack of consistent communication between hospitals and care homes, especially during out-of-hours discharges.

Research and Innovation in Social Care: Updates were shared on research projects:

- **Dementia and Sitting Position Poll:** Diane described a poll conducted for an NHS clinical entrepreneur application, revealing widespread issues with poor sitting positions among care home residents with dementia, and plans to share findings with occupational therapy networks.
- **Dysphagia Research Proposal:** Sevim outlined a proposed NIHR-funded study on compensatory interventions for people with fluid dysphagia, aiming to understand usual



practice, lived experience, and the impact of interventions in care homes and community settings.

Professional Development and Advocacy Initiatives: Updates were provided on leadership development, advocacy groups, student placements, and ongoing work to address racism and sexism in social care settings.

- **Leadership and Advocacy:** Samantha described efforts to establish a professional nurse advocacy group in Lincolnshire, address underrepresentation in social care advocacy, and secure funding for the King Child Nursing Cadet Association scheme.
- **Student Placement and Awareness:** Vicky and Shirley Way highlighted ongoing work to promote student placements in social care, raise awareness of roles for newly registered nurses, and address issues of racism and sexism through research and events.

Veteran Friendly Framework and Community Initiatives: The veteran friendly framework was promoted and related community initiatives, encouraging care homes to participate and support veterans and men's shed projects:

- **Veteran Friendly Framework:** Jo-Anne encouraged care homes to adopt the veteran friendly framework and participate in related pilots, noting the growing number of care homes involved and the benefits for residents.
- **Men's Shed Initiative:** Jo-Anne also promoted the men's shed initiative as part of the veteran friendly framework, inviting further participation and sharing of best practice.