



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
NORTH EAST & YORKSHIRE Virtual Quarterly Meeting 07
Tuesday 20th January 2026, 09:30-11:00

<u>Attending:</u>		
Anthony Birmingham	-	Chair of North East & Yorkshire SCNAC & Registered Manager for Positive Individual Proactive Support Ltd
Karen Roberts	-	Co-Chair of Northeast & Yorkshire SCNAC & Group Head of Health & Clinical Governance for Lifeways Group
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC (Adem Oyekan attending on her behalf)
Jo Cameron	-	Health & Social Care Integration Programme Lead, South Yorkshire ICB attending on behalf of Cathy Winfield
Daniel Flerin	-	Service Lead, Our TLC
Nikki Meston	-	ELS Adviser North East & Yorkshire, Independent Health & Social Care, NMC
Nichola Greenwood	-	Locality Manager & Regional Nursing Workstream Link, Skills for Care
Debbie Winder	-	Associate Director of Nursing & Quality in WY ICB attending on behalf of Ian Bennett
Helen Hart	-	Director of Nursing for Health and Care Integration with Humber & North Yorkshire ICB
Jane Cronin-Davis	-	Practice Educator, Social Care, York St. John University
Phyllis Cole	-	Attending on behalf of Regional Chief Nurse
Karen Spilsbury	-	Leeds University
Laura Bates	-	Senior Nurse, Leeds Community Healthcare, shadowing the RCN for a couple of days as part of alternative practise.
Alan Fry	-	Head of Operations for the Outstanding Society

<u>Apologies:</u>		
Gill Hunt	-	Regional Chief Nurse – North East & Yorkshire. Sharon Haggerty attending on her behalf
Leanne Hume	-	(extended maternity leave)
David Purdue	-	NHSE Regional Chief Nurse, North East & Yorkshire
Teresa Fenech	-	ICB CNO, West Yorkshire
Allyson Sanderson	-	Regional Senior Nurse, HC-One
Sarah Fisher	-	Sometimes attends on behalf of Cathy Winfield, South Yorkshire
Rachael Wheeldon	-	Lecturer in Nursing, School of Science, Technology & Health, York St. John University
Rory McDonnell	-	CEO for Cavalry Group and a Registered Nurse



Karen Morse	-	Head of Region for Yorkshire, Humber & the North East, Skills for Care
Cary Williams	-	
Andrea Kingston	-	RN & Clinical Educator, Practice Development
Ian Bennett	-	Debbie Winder attending on his behalf
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society and SCNACS Administrator

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- 7th May 2026, 09:30-11:00

Summary Notes:

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Updates: Deborah Sturdy provided a comprehensive update on national developments, including the NHS England and DHSC amalgamation, workforce reductions, the upcoming Casey Review, and ongoing initiatives such as the nurse prescribing pilot and the push for the Global Majority Network, with contributions from council members regarding the CNO strategy and engagement events.

- **NHS England Amalgamation and Workforce Changes:** Deborah explained the ongoing amalgamation of NHS England with the DHSC, highlighting significant workforce reductions, including a 50% cut over the next 12 months and the impact of the voluntary exit scheme, which has already reduced her office staff from three to one.
- **Casey Review and National Strategy:** Deborah noted the imminent release of Baroness Casey's interim report, expected around March or April, and discussed the ongoing development of the national nursing strategy led by Duncan Burton's team, with publication anticipated in the spring, though no drafts have been seen yet.
- **Nursing Research and Showcase Initiatives:** Deborah described the success of the nurse researcher programme, with 25 participants engaged in Qi projects and future cohorts funded, as well as the ongoing CRED talks and plans for a social care nursing showcase event in the north of England, aiming to broaden the nursing research agenda in Social Care.
- **Global Majority Network and Newsletter Promotion:** Deborah urged the group to promote the [Global Majority Skills for Care Network](#) due to its increasing importance, especially in supporting nurses facing racism, and emphasised the value of the "[We are social care nursing](#)" newsletter as a central information resource, requesting further dissemination and engagement.
- **Nurse Prescribing Pilot and Delegation Work:** Deborah reported the launch of nurse prescribing pilots in social care, with about 40 participants and associated research underway. She acknowledged ongoing work around delegation, [Resilience Based Clinical Supervision](#), and the National Service Framework for Frailty and Dementia.



National Nursing Strategy and Regional Priorities: Council members discussed the forthcoming national nursing strategy, the group's involvement in consultation events, and the alignment of regional priorities with the evolving national agenda, while noting the need to adapt as more details become available.

- **Strategy Consultation and Engagement:** Phyllis informed the group about the upcoming phase two of the CNO strategy engagement, which will include regional webinars to gather qualitative feedback and insights, with invitations to be sent to previous participants and the opportunity for broader involvement.
- **Regional Alignment and Opportunities:** Helen highlighted the opportunity for ICBs to involve adult social care partners in shaping the future of nursing, emphasising the importance of collective input and the potential to influence the direction of the profession at both regional and national levels.
- **Action Plan and Prioritisation:** Karen R and Anthony agreed to update and circulate the action plan, ensuring that regional priorities remain responsive to the national strategy and that the group is prepared to select focus areas once the strategy is published.

Delegated Healthcare Activities and Skills for Care Collaboration: The transition of delegated healthcare activities work to Skills for Care was discussed, the need for improved communication and resource sharing, and ongoing efforts to support providers, delegators, and staff with guidance and governance structures.

- **Transition of Priority to Skills for Care:** Karen R explained that the group would step back from leading delegated healthcare activities as Skills for Care now holds the main responsibility, with Karen and Jo maintaining involvement through the national learning exchange and steering groups.
- **Resource Development and Communication:** Nichola described the development of resources and checklists for providers, delegators, and staff, and committed to sharing updates and materials with the group to ensure all stakeholders remain informed and connected.
- **Local Authority and Provider Engagement:** Debbie raised concerns about siloed working and the need for strategic oversight, prompting suggestions from Jo and Nichola to connect with locality managers and ensure local authorities and providers are supported and informed about delegated healthcare activities.



- **Regulatory and Research Developments:** Nikki confirmed that the NMC's review of the delegation element of the code is ongoing despite team changes, and Karen Spilsbury and Jo highlighted related national research projects, including studies at King's College London and Leeds, and the importance of sharing findings and connecting researchers.

Learning Disability Nursing Awareness and Workforce Challenges: The urgent need to raise the profile of learning disability (LD) nursing was addressed, discussing workforce shortages, university course closures, and planned actions to gather regional data and share best practices for recruitment and retention.

- **National and Regional Initiatives:** Anthony and Karen R described their involvement with the CNO National Steering Group for LD nurses and ongoing work to review and update e-learning resources, while Michelle promoted a national LD nursing event and highlighted RCN activities.
- **Workforce Data and University Engagement:** Nichola and Helen agreed to seek updates from university partners and workforce leads regarding LD nursing course availability, recruitment challenges, and future planning, with commitments to report findings to the group.
- **Barriers to Recruitment and Career Progression:** Karen R and others discussed the decline in LD nursing courses, the impact on workforce supply, and the need to clarify career pathways and revalidation requirements for nurses in social care roles that may not have 'nurse' in the job title.
- **Research and Data Collection:** The group agreed to gather and share regional data on LD nursing numbers, course provision, and retention, with Nichola offering to summarise NHS England data and Anthony planning to contact researchers for updates on ongoing studies.

Frontline Nursing Voice and Council Membership: The importance of increasing frontline nurse representation on the Council was discussed, including strategies for outreach and engagement, and the challenges of enabling participation given workforce pressures.

- **Membership Review and Outreach:** Anthony outlined plans to review and update Council membership, circulate contact lists, and encourage continued participation, with Nikki and Michelle offering to promote Council involvement during their learning sessions and events.



- **Engagement Barriers and Alternative Approaches:** The group acknowledged the difficulty frontline nurses face in attending meetings due to time constraints, and discussed alternative methods for gathering input, such as leveraging networks, care associations, and asynchronous feedback mechanisms.
- **Resource Sharing and Promotion:** Anthony committed to sharing information leaflets and website links with members for wider dissemination, and highlighted the need to maintain a standing agenda item focused on frontline nursing membership.

Regional and Organisational Updates and Successes: Council members provided updates on local consultations, workforce changes, research projects, and celebrated recent successes such as the Adult Social Care nurse prescribing pilot and community engagement initiatives.

- **ICB and Workforce Changes:** Helen and Debbie reported ongoing consultations and voluntary redundancy schemes within their organisations, expressing concerns about the impact on capacity to support adult social care and the uncertainty surrounding future structures.
- **Research and Placement Initiatives:** Daniel shared progress on a research project initiated in October, while Jane described efforts to increase student healthcare placements in social care settings, noting both successes and challenges in provider engagement.
- **Celebrating Successes:** Helen highlighted a virtual care home carol concert and Christmas card competition as examples of community-building, and Michelle noted the inclusion of the region in the adult social care nurse prescribing pilot, with links to further information provided.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Anthony encouraged nominations for the Chief Nurse Awards, particularly the Social Care Nurse Awards, and committed to sharing application details with the group to promote recognition of outstanding practice.