



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
NORTHWEST Region Virtual Quarterly Meeting 07
Friday 23rd January 2026, 09:30-11:00

<u>Attending:</u>		
Karen Davies	-	Co-Chair of NW SCNAC & Senior Nurse, HC-One
Michelle Howarth	-	Co-Chair of NW SCNAC & Professor in Health & Social Care, Edge Hill University
Alison Small	-	RGN and General Manager for Belsfield Care
Barbara Johnson	-	Director of Nursing, Risedale Estates
Craig Priestley	-	Registered Manager, Gorsey Clough Nursing Home
Janette Dunkerley	-	Health & Care Director, Regional Research Delivery Network (RRDN) Northwest Health and Care (NMAHP), NIHR NW
Eleri Lloyd-Burns	-	
Emma Addie	-	Corporate Director of Nursing, Wrightington Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust
Jo Willis	-	Head of Quality & Compliance & RMN, Northern Healthcare
Karen Lowe	-	AFG – presenting on NIHR Internship
Gemma Maher	-	Attending on behalf of Jo Finnerty, Assistant Programme Director (Workforce), Adult Social Care Transformation – NHS Greater Manchester ICB
James McClean	-	Regional Chief Nurse, NHSE NW
Megan Floyd	-	Attending on behalf of Sue Noon, Social Care & PIVO Workforce Development Manager, Cheshire & Merseyside
Melanie Stephens	-	Associate Professor Adult Nursing, Salford University
Michelle Ashworth	-	Lead Nurse, North West Ambulance Service
Nicola Morrell-Scott	-	Nursing Workforce Senior Manager, NHS England NW WTE Team
Sarah Kennedy	-	Joint Care Sector Clinical Fellow, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh Teaching Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust
Michelle Tennant	-	Clinical Governance Lead for Home Instead
Andrew Burridge	-	NW ADASS Programme Office
Jacqui Cooper	-	Chief Nursing Information Officer, Health Innovation Manchester & NHS Greater Manchester
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society and SCNACs Administrator
<u>Apologies:</u>		
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC
Lydia Vallance-Prentice	-	Regional Programme Lead UCR Ageing Well / Care Sector Lead



Paula Bennett	-	Health Innovation Manchester
Kevin Park-Evans	-	WWL
Joanne Murray	-	Caring UK
David Kay	-	Trinity Hospice & Brian House
Jane Scattergood	-	Interim ICB CNO, Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB
Sarah O'Brien	-	
Mandy Philbin	-	ICB CNO, Greater Manchester
Kamran Beg	-	Head of Northwest Region, Skills for Care
Sana Din	-	Employment Link Service Advisor for NW & IoM, NMC
Sue Noon	-	Social Care and PIVO Workforce Development Manager, Cheshire & Merseyside ICB
Jo Finnerty	-	Gemma Maher attending on Jo's behalf
Emma Orton	-	NWAS
Paula Palmer—Charlery	-	Regulation Adviser, Employment Lind Service, NMC

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Tuesday 19th May 2026. 09:30-11:00

Summary Notes:

Update from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC): Sonia delivered an update on behalf of Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, highlighting upcoming events, ongoing research, and major organisational changes within NHS England and the DHSC, with the council encouraged to submit questions for further clarification.

- Planning underway for a nursing conference in early Summer. Details to follow and is intended to be hybrid in person in Salford
- Please sign post people to the Foundation of Nursing studies free resource programme [Resilience Based Clinical Supervision](#)
- Research interns being led by Zena Aldridge going really well and in late spring the recruitment of the second cohort will take place
- Please encourage and promote the [Global Majority Skills for Care Network](#). Keen to support colleagues some of whom are facing work-based challenges
- Please encourage everyone to sign up to the "[We are social care nursing](#)" this is going to be a vital communication for sector nurses going forward
- Major reorganisation underway NHSE/ DHSC and wider NHS having significant impact on ways of working and rationalising work priorities/ programmes
- Nurse Prescribing pilots underway 40 nurses signed up for programmes. This is being evaluated through a yearlong research study. Critical for future funding
- Duncan Burton's lead a new nursing strategy due to be published in early spring, social care nurses have been on all the work streams



- NMC planning an event in May focused on social care nursing and the revalidation/code review along with Fitness to Practice referrals

Regional North West SCNAC Newsletter: Karen Davies asked members to provide honest feedback on the usefulness of the newsletter, its relevance, and whether it should continue, with Sonia agreeing to resend the newsletter with the meeting follow up and Craig's team acknowledged for their role in its development.

- **Newsletter Planning and Ownership:** Karen explained that the newsletter is planned to be issued quarterly following meetings, but its continuation depends on member contributions and feedback regarding its value and distribution.

Action Points Review: The action points from the last meeting were displayed, and Karen emphasised the importance of reviewing and updating these points, encouraging members to report any missed items or provide updates on their progress.

- **Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Award Nominations:** Sonia and Karen Davies discussed the ongoing search for award nominations, with Craig sharing his experience of the application process and Sonia offering to follow up on delayed feedback regarding nominations.
- **Student Experience and Representation:** Michelle Howarth and Andrew discussed efforts to increase student representation in the group and to develop a hub for collating student experiences in social care placements, aligning with ongoing theory of change work.

Theory of Change Project for Student Learning Environments: Michelle Howarth presented an update on the theory of change project aimed at enhancing student learning environments and reducing avoidable hospital admissions, with contributions from James, Melanie, and Karen Davies on collaboration, challenges, and future directions.

- **Project Goals and Workshop Outcomes:** Michelle Howarth described the project's focus on promoting high-quality learning environments in social care, summarised the outcomes of the first workshop, and outlined plans for a second workshop addressing hospital admission reduction.
- **Identified Challenges and Resources:** The group identified workforce challenges, recruitment and retention issues, and the need for strategic investment, with discussions on necessary resources such as staff time, training, and organisational commitment.



- **Collaboration and Peer Support:** James, Melanie, and Karen Davies discussed the importance of collaboration with universities, leveraging sector expertise, and developing peer-to-peer support and guidance to enhance learning environments and mentorship.
- **Integration with Other Initiatives:** Melanie shared information about a related study funded by the General Nursing Council, aiming to conduct expert consensus meetings and a Delphi study, with plans to integrate findings from the theory of change project.

Placements and Workforce Development in Social Care: Andrew Burridge presented on supporting placements in social care settings, outlining the Imagineering Lab initiative and gathering feedback from Alison, Michelle Howarth, Melanie, Sarah Kennedy, and James on preparation, mentorship, and sustainability.

- **Imagineering Lab Initiative:** Andrew Burridge introduced the Imagineering Lab, a creative event designed to bring together diverse stakeholders to develop solutions for student placements in adult social care, and invited feedback on the proposed approach.
- **Challenges in Placement Preparation:** Alison and Michelle Howarth highlighted the importance of adequately preparing students and mentors for placements, addressing the need for realistic expectations and robust support mechanisms.
- **Mentorship and Community of Practice:** Melanie suggested establishing a mentorship scheme or community of practice across providers, supported by research-active staff and potential funding, to facilitate knowledge sharing and support for student placements.
- **Sustainability and Role Longevity:** Sarah Kennedy emphasised the need for sustainable, long-term roles to support learning environments and placement settings, noting the fragility caused by temporary or time-limited contracts.
- **University Collaboration and Generational Differences:** James discussed the necessity of close collaboration with universities to prepare students for real-life situations in social care, considering generational differences and the challenges faced by new learners.

Greater Manchester Shared Care Record Implementation: Jacqui presented an overview of the Greater Manchester Shared Care Record (GMCR), detailing its development, integration, and impact on care coordination, with questions from Dunkerley, Michelle Howarth, Gemma, Craig, Alison, Karen Davies, and Eleri on data use, access, and outcomes.



- **GMCR Development and Integration:** Jacqui explained the evolution of the GMCR, its coverage of the Greater Manchester population, integration of multiple care records, and the inclusion of GP Connect and imaging systems for comprehensive data access.
- **Clinical Engagement and Usage:** A targeted programme of clinical engagement led to an 82% increase in GMCR usage, with ongoing efforts to train and support end users, including care homes, and to address connectivity challenges in community settings.
- **Care Planning and Data Sharing:** The GMCR supports integrated care planning for conditions such as dementia, heart failure, and end-of-life care, with evidence showing improved outcomes when care plans are accessed and honoured.
- **Data Ownership, Duplication, and App Integration:** Discussions addressed data ownership (with GPs as data controllers), challenges of data duplication, and plans to integrate various health apps into a single patient record accessible via the NHS app.
- **Impact Measurement and Safeguarding:** Jacqui noted that while reductions in hospital admissions are difficult to measure directly, evidence from ambulance conveyance data suggests positive impacts, and safeguarding data feeds are being integrated, though system-wide incident monitoring is still in development.

Social Care Internship Programme and Research Opportunities: Jeanette Dunkerley and Karen Lowe provided an update on the NIHR social care nurse internship programme, with Karen Lowe sharing her research focus and plans for future updates, and Jeanette highlighting additional research opportunities and events.

- **Internship Programme Overview:** Jeanette Dunkerley described the NIHR social care nurse internship programme, noting that seven interns are participating in one-year projects, and invited Karen Lowe to share her experience and research focus.
- **Research Focus on Personality Disorder Stigma:** Karen Lowe outlined her literature review on the stigma associated with personality disorder and its impact on treatment outcomes, with plans to develop training for professionals and involve experts by experience.
- **Future Engagement and Updates:** Jeanette proposed inviting interns to present updates at future meetings, and Karen Lowe agreed to share her slides and contact details for further collaboration.
- **Additional Research Opportunities:** Jeanette highlighted upcoming research leader prizes, conferences, and collaboration opportunities, including the NIHR Insight programme and the University of Exeter's focus groups, with details to be shared via the newsletter.



Succession Planning for Group Leadership: Karen Davies raised the need for succession planning for the Co-chair roles within the group, inviting members to consider potential candidates and to include this in future action planning.

- **Leadership Transition Planning:** Karen Davies asked members to start thinking about succession planning for the group's Co-chair positions, encouraging suggestions and inclusion of this topic in the group's action points.

Sara Din from NMC gave her apologies for the meeting and sent the following update: Apologies I will not be able to attend NW SCNACS due to a clashing commitment. Please pass on apologies from the NMC, I've enclosed some pertinent updates that may be helpful for all:

- We are engaging in conversations internally at the NMC to identify how as part of our adviser roles we can support the productive conversations that we know have taken place recently between Donna O'Boyle - Director for Professional Practice and Deborah Sturdy around consideration of IHSC and Fitness to Practise.
- A reminder that Fee Consultation and Fitness to Practice reform consultations remain open and close on 26/01/26 – please see links attached to share your views.
- 1. [Consultation on improvements to our Fitness to Practise process - The Nursing and Midwifery Council](#)
- 2. [Consultation on proposals to increase our registration fees - The Nursing and Midwifery Council](#)
- As part of the organisation's restructure there has been changes to the structure of the Employer Link Service. We will communicate any update that may be relevant to yourselves when this is agreed and formalised.
- The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has relaunched a key strategic forum to strengthen its support for diaspora nursing and midwifery professionals – those who have joined the UK workforce from around the world - [New forum to support diaspora nursing and midwifery professionals - The Nursing and Midwifery Council...](#)