



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
NORTH EAST & YORKSHIRE Virtual Quarterly Meeting 08
Thursday 7th May 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 North East & Yorkshire SCNAC & Group Head of Health & Clinical Governance for Lifeways Group
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC
David Purdue	-	NHSE Regional Chief Nurse, North Eastern Yorkshire
Angie McDonald	-	Interim IHSC Nurse for RCN, Northern Region covering for Leanne Hume while on maternity leave
Sarah Fiori	-	Head of Adult Social Care Nursing & Principal Nurse at North Yorkshire Council.
Sarah Wighton	-	Associate Director of Nursing & Quality for West Yorkshire ICB – taking over in the interim from Debbie Winder
Andrea Kingston	-	RN & Clinical Educator, Practice Development
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society & SCNACs Administrator

<u>Apologies:</u>		
Teresa Fenech	-	ICB CNO, West Yorkshire
Jo Cameron	-	Health & Social Care Integration Programme Lead, South Yorkshire ICB attending on behalf of Cathy Winfield
Paula South	-	Attends on behalf of Teresa Fenech
Michelle Raddings	-	Lead Nurse Independent Health & Social Care (Yorkshire & the Humber), RCN
Nikki Meston	-	ELS Adviser North East & Yorkshire, Independent Health & Social Care, NMC
Ian Bennett	-	Director of Nursing & Quality, Kirklees & Calderdale Place, West Yorkshire
Lynne Shaw	-	Nurse
Karen Spilsbury	-	Leeds University
Phyllis Cole	-	Attends on behalf of Regional Chief Nurse
Sharon Haggerty	-	Attends on behalf of Gill Hunt

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Thursday 30th July 2026, 09:30-11:00
- Tuesday 10th November 2026, 09:30-11:00
- Wednesday 10th February 2027, 09:30-11:00



Summary Notes:

Sector Changes and Leadership Transitions: Deborah Sturdy provided an update on the ongoing merger between NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), recent redundancies, and the resulting turbulence in the sector, with Karen and David discussing the lack of a replacement for the Chief Nurse Adult Social Care role and the need to review council membership.

- **Merger and Redundancies:** Deborah Sturdy explained the significant changes underway due to the merger of NHS England and the Department of Health, including two rounds of redundancies, which have led to instability and uncertainty for staff across the sector.
- **Leadership Transition:** Karen and David discussed the departure of Deborah Sturdy as Chief Nurse Adult Social Care, noting that there is currently no plan for a direct replacement, and highlighted the need to monitor the evolving structure and leadership roles.
- **Membership Review:** Karen raised concerns about the council's membership, noting that many members have left due to sector changes, and emphasised the importance of identifying new members and reviewing current posts to maintain effective representation.

Delegated Healthcare Activities and Policy Inconsistencies: Karen, Sarah F, Andrea, and others discussed the challenges and inconsistencies surrounding delegated healthcare activities, including recent guidance from [Skills for Care](#), CQC inspection frameworks, and the need for a unified approach across providers and ICBs.

- **Skills for Care Guidance:** Karen reported that Skills for Care has published new supplementary guidance for providers and ICBs on delegated healthcare activities, and SCNACs were acknowledged in the publication, with Karen continuing to support regional input.
- **Policy and Practice Variations:** Participants highlighted significant inconsistencies in the interpretation of delegated healthcare activities, such as catheter care, with different responses from CQC inspectors and Skills for Care, leading to confusion among providers and ICBs.
- **Impact on Providers and Contracts:** Karen described how providers have faced threats of breaches and had to issue intent to cease notices, prompting contract reviews with ICBs to ensure alignment with current requirements for delegated healthcare activities.
- **Data and Digitalisation Challenges:** Andrea explained that the transition to digital platforms, such as Nourish, has led to gaps in capturing data and risk assessments for delegated healthcare activities, prompting efforts to enhance regional nurse support and train-the-trainer models.



- **Future Actions and Collaboration:** Sarah F and Sarah W discussed the need for a structured, cross-ICB group to address delegated healthcare activities, ensure registrants are well-informed, and capture best practices, with Karen offering to facilitate connections with Skills for Care.

Learning Disability Nursing: Workforce, Placements, and Profile: Council explored regional priorities for learning disability (LD) nursing:

- **Workforce Shortages:** Anthony and David noted the low numbers of LD nurses entering the region, with only one university (Teesside) delivering LD nursing courses and a cohort of just ten nurses, raising concerns about future workforce capacity.
- **Placement Allocation and University Engagement:** Angie and Anthony discussed challenges in securing diverse placements for LD nursing students, with limited opportunities in social care settings and resistance from hospital teams, but recent progress in engaging Teesside University for placements.
- **Misconceptions and Role Awareness:** Andrea highlighted widespread misconceptions about LD and mental health nursing, both within companies and the public, emphasising the need to showcase the clinical and impactful nature of LD nursing roles.
- **Case Studies and Profile Raising:** The group agreed to develop and share case studies of LD nurses in social care, aiming to complete this by September, to illustrate the diversity and opportunities in the field and support recruitment and understanding.
- **Strategic Planning and Mental Health Act Changes:** David shared updates on strategic workforce planning, including the impact of upcoming changes to the Mental Health Act, which will require expansion of LD nursing roles and joint planning with council members.

National Nursing Strategy and Social Care Representation: Deborah and David both updated the group on the progress of the national nursing strategy, emphasising the inclusion of social care nursing voices, with Karen and Anthony noting regional contributions and the importance of ongoing engagement.

- **Strategy Development:** Deborah and David reported that the national nursing strategy, led by Duncan Burton, is in its final stages and expected to be published in June, with social care nursing representation included throughout.
- **Regional Contributions:** Karen and Anthony highlighted their participation in strategy sessions, ensuring that social care perspectives were incorporated, and noted that not all regions achieved the same level of engagement.
- **Future Updates:** David committed to providing further updates and feedback as soon as the strategy is released, maintaining communication with council members.



Council Membership, Networking, and Communication: Council discussed the need to review and expand membership, improve communication with social care nurses, and leverage bulletins and events to reach a broader audience.

- **Membership Review and Recruitment:** Karen and Anthony emphasised the importance of identifying new members, especially from frontline services, and encouraged participants to recommend proactive individuals for council membership.
- **Communication Channels:** Sarah F and Anthony discussed challenges in reaching social care nurses, proposing the use of NMC and CQC bulletins, and considering collaboration with the NMC to communicate opportunities and updates.
- **Event Promotion and Data Updates:** Sonia shared links for updating member details and promoted upcoming events, while Angie described regular regional network meetings and webinars to engage social care staff.

Updates from RCN and Regional Activities: Angie provided updates on RCN activities, with Anthony and Karen encouraging participation and information sharing.

- **RCN and NMC Collaboration:** Angie described a pilot project with NMC advisors to increase engagement in the social care sector, including joint webinars and outreach to independent sector staff.
- **Regional Network Meetings:** Regular three-monthly regional independent sector network meetings are held, chaired by Angie and Michelle, to gauge staff needs and provide learning opportunities, such as debriefs and safety huddles.
- **Upcoming Events:** Angie announced a webinar for Care Home Week covering long-term conditions, diabetes, dementia, and stroke, as well as a student festival at Manchester University, encouraging council members to promote LD nursing and social care placements.