



**Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)**  
**NORTHWEST Region Virtual Quarterly Meeting 08**  
**Tuesday 19th May 2026, 09:30-11:00**

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| <b><u>Attending:</u></b> |   |                                                                                                                      |
| Karen Davies             | - | Co-Chair of NW SCNAC                                                                                                 |
| Michelle Howarth         | - | Co-Chair of NW SCNAC & Professor in Health & Social Care, Edge Hill University                                       |
| James McClean            | - | Regional Chief Nurse, NHSE NW                                                                                        |
| Barbara Johnson          | - | Director of Nursing, Risedale Estates                                                                                |
| Susan Clarke             | - | Social Care Workforce Development Manager, GM NHS England                                                            |
| Janette Dunkerley        | - | Health & Care Director, Regional Research Delivery Network (RRDN) Northwest Health and Care (NMAHP), NIHR NW         |
| Ian Nelson               | - | Locality Manager, Skills for Care                                                                                    |
| Melanie Stephens         | - | Associate Professor Adult Nursing, Salford University                                                                |
| Richard Crockford        | - | Associate Director of Nursing & Care (Patient Safety), attending on behalf of Kerry Lloyd, Cheshire & Merseyside ICB |
| Sailus Maphosa           | - | Social Care Nurse, Intern Research Development                                                                       |
| Sana Din                 | - | Employment Link Service Advisor for NW & IoM, NMC                                                                    |
| Sarah Kennedy            | - | Joint Care Sector Clinical Fellow, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh Teaching Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust              |
| Mary Speake              | - | Workforce and People Senior Manager, NIHR NW RRDN                                                                    |
| Adele Thornburn          | - | Senior Care Sector Clinical Lead, LSC ICB                                                                            |
| Sue Noon                 | - | Social Care and PIVO Workforce Development Manager, NHS England                                                      |
| Sonia Pritchard          | - | EA for the Outstanding Society and SCNACs Administrator                                                              |

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|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Apologies:</u></b> |   |                                                                    |
| Deborah Sturdy           | - | Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC                                  |
| Zoë Fry                  | - | The OS Executive Director of Nursing                               |
| Nicola Morrell-Scott     | - | Nursing Workforce Senior Manager, NHS England NW WTE Team          |
| Alison Walsh             | - | Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Student, Wheeler Campus     |
| Jo Willis                | - | Head of Quality & Compliance & RMN, Northern Healthcare            |
| Katharina Lloyd          | - | Newly Qualified Nurse                                              |
| Ellen Wood               | - | Teaching & Learning Fellow in Adult Nursing, University of Salford |
| Abbie Cliffe             | - | Clinical Lead, Cavalry Healthcare                                  |



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|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Craig Priestley | - | Registered Manager, Gorsey Clough Nursing Home                                                    |
| David Kay       | - | Trinity Hospice & Brian House                                                                     |
| Mandy Philbin   | - | ICB CNO, Greater Manchester                                                                       |
| Melissa Stanton | - | Lead Nurse Independent Health & Social Care, RCN                                                  |
| Jo Finnerty     | - | Assistant Programme Director (Workforce) Adult Social Care Transformation, NHS GM Integrated Care |
| Cheryl Meaden   | - | Attends on behalf of Kerry Lloyd, Interim ICB CNO for Cheshire & Merseyside ICB                   |

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

### **Date of Future Meetings:**

- Wednesday 12th August 2026. 09:30-11:00
- Thursday 12th November 2026, 09:30-11:00
- Thursday 11th February 2027, 09:30-11:00

### **Summary Notes:**

**National and Regional Nursing Strategy Updates:** Sonia shared a video update from Deborah Sturdy, highlighting upcoming consultations, research internships, and legislative changes, while James McClean provided a comprehensive regional chief nurse update:

- **Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NMC Consultations:** Sonia relayed Deborah Sturdy's request for social care nurses to contribute to NMC consultations on practice hours, revalidation, and code review, emphasising the importance of social care nursing voices in shaping policy and highlighting available online events and inspirational videos.
- **Research Internships and National Nursing Strategy:** Deborah Sturdy's update included information about open [research internships for social care nurses via NIHR](#), encouraging applications for backfilled places, and noted the ongoing development of the national nursing strategy, with social care nurses actively participating in related groups.
- **Regional Workforce and Legislative Changes:** James McClean discussed the transition to DHSC, the impact of legislative changes, and the need for dynamic workforce planning, referencing the North West's demographic challenges and the importance of maintaining statutory functions amid financial constraints.
- **Quality Assurance and Partnership Working:** James and Karen emphasised the focus on quality improvement and assurance, noting that improved quality reduces complaints and costs, and highlighted the symbiotic relationship between health and social care sectors, with Sue raising concerns about funding for knowledge transfer and partnership initiatives.
- **Showcasing Achievements and Communication:** Karen asked how team members could showcase their provisions, to which James advised contacting his team via email



for coordination, and encouraged sharing successful learner placements in social care as part of workforce development.

**North West Research Delivery and Development Programmes:** Janette and Mary presented updates on the NHS North West Regional Research Delivery Network:

- **Regional Research Roadshow:** Janette described the NHS North West Regional Research Delivery Network Research Roadshow, which featured breakout and provocation sessions, showcased health and social care research, and enabled participants to discuss challenges with the nursing midwifery office.
- **NIHR Research Development and Internship Programmes:** Janette and Mary outlined opportunities for social care nurses, including the NIHR research development programme (cohort 2) and internship programme, offering protected time, mentoring, and funding for educational engagement, with deadlines and application details shared for wider dissemination.
- **Workforce Planning and Training:** Mary explained the team's function in workforce planning, capacity building, and delivering research-specific training, including the use of NHS Learn and the North West RN career framework, describing digital initiatives to empower participation in research.
- **Career Framework and Leadership Programmes:** Mary detailed the modular master's programme for research delivery leadership, the associate PI scheme, and the upcoming UK research workforce strategy, emphasising social care as a priority and the need for system-wide collaboration.
- **Information Sharing and Engagement:** Karen confirmed that slides and contact details would be shared with the wider network, encouraging direct engagement with Janette and Mary's teams for support and further information.

**Theory of Change and Admission Avoidance Initiatives:** Michelle, Karen, and the SCNACs team discussed their ongoing theory of change work focused on reducing inappropriate admissions from social care, developing a logic model, and planning a task and finish group, with Richard, Melanie, Sue, and others contributing insights on system challenges, partnership working, and data-driven pilots.

- **Logic Model Development:** Michelle presented the draft logic model developed through collaborative workshops, outlining assumptions, impact statements, and short- and long-term goals aimed at enabling people in social care settings to remain safely at home and avoid unnecessary hospital admissions.
- **Partnerships and System Working:** The group discussed strengthening clinician-to-clinician conversations, reducing reliance on algorithm-led escalation, and building neighbourhood-level relationships, with Richard proposing alignment between health and social care perspectives through joint sessions and Melanie emphasising the need for strategic collaboration.



- **Workforce Capability and Training:** Plans were made to enhance workforce capability and confidence through partnerships with Skills for Care and academies, including training in clinical assessments, communication, mental capacity, advocacy, and end-of-life care, with Sue sharing pilot work in Cheshire and Merseyside to challenge existing protocols.
- **Data Generation and Pilot Projects:** The team proposed piloting an area to test innovative models for admission avoidance, leveraging data from MWAS and care homes, and suggested linking these initiatives to research internships and desktop reviews, with Melanie and Michelle advocating for strategic calls to recruit interns and generate evidence.
- **System Barriers and Language Alignment:** Karen and Sue highlighted the impact of system-driven practices and language differences between health and social care, noting the need to collect data on avoidable admissions and share lessons from providers who have developed effective workarounds.

**NIHR Social Care Nursing Internship Cohort One:** Sailus presented an overview of the NIHR research and development programme for social care nurses, describing the structure, mentorship, and protected time, showcasing diverse practice-based research projects from the North West cohort, with Richard and Sue expressing interest in expanding access and engagement.

- **Programme Structure and Mentorship:** Sailus explained the 12-month internship, delivered in partnership with the University of Liverpool and NHS Research and Development North West, which provides dedicated mentors, academic library access, and one protected day per week for research activities.
- **Practice-Based Research Projects:** The North West cohort's projects cover workforce well-being, training and confidence for complex care, emotional impact of end-of-life dementia care, barriers to home care coordination, therapeutic community models, seizure management tools, and stigma around personality disorder, all designed for practical implementation.
- **Building Evidence and Sector Engagement:** Sailus emphasised the importance of generating evidence in social care, moving from guideline-following to evidence creation, and encouraged more nurses to participate in future cohorts, noting the sector's historical lack of research and the need for rigorous data.
- **Access to Literature and Organisational Support:** Richard raised the challenge of accessing research literature in smaller social care organisations, highlighting the responsibility placed on individual nurses, while Sailus described efforts to educate home care providers and improve research uptake in Greater Manchester.
- **Expanding Engagement and Testimonials:** Sue invited Sailus to speak to nurses in Cheshire and Merseyside to inspire research participation, and Karen suggested



gathering testimonials to promote involvement through established organisations like NMC and RCN.

**International Nurses Day Event and Recognition:** Michelle and Sonia reported on the successful International Nurses Day event organised by SCNACs and facilitated by the Outstanding Society, featuring panel debates, videos from key figures, and messages recognising the vital role of social care nurses, with links shared for wider viewing.

- **Event Highlights and Panel Debate:** Michelle described the event's panel debate, which addressed issues around the future and relevance of social care nursing, and noted the participation of key figures, including a video from Andy Burnham discussing the value of social care nurses.
- **Recognition and Messaging:** Sonia shared messages emphasising the essential contribution of social care nurses to health and social care, their role in managing long-term conditions, and the importance of recognising and investing in the workforce.
- **Access to Event Resources:** Links to event videos and resources were provided in the chat and are available on the [Outstanding Society website](#), with Karen encouraging attendees to view the content and share it within their networks.

**RCN Practice Area Update:** Karen announced that, following persistent campaigning, social care nursing is now officially included as a practice area option in the RCN dropdown menu, allowing nurses to accurately represent their discipline and expertise, marking a significant acknowledgement of the sector's expertise and future job role developments.

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### **Skills for Care International Nurses Day Event Follow Up**

**From:** Social Care Nursing <[SocialCareNursing@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:SocialCareNursing@skillsforcare.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 15 May 2026 9:09 AM

**To:** Social Care Nursing <[SocialCareNursing@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:SocialCareNursing@skillsforcare.org.uk)>

**Subject:** International Nurses Day celebration

Dear all,

Thank you to everyone who attended our International Nurses Day celebration on the 12th May.

During the session, we heard from Professor Deb Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, who reflected on national priorities, leadership, and the impact of social care nursing. This was followed by a presentation from Ashleigh Fox, Transforming Care Director at Catalyst Care Group, who talked about 'when nurses choose not to look away', and the impact of empowered nurses on people, the nursing



community and on the wider sector. Ashleigh also shared a powerful video on 'Caring With Courage': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZLJF-K21Xg>

We have included a quick recap below of all the information and links that were shared in the chat:

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|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NMC practice learning review consultation | Your chance to make sure the voice of social care nursing is heard: <a href="#">Practice learning review consultation - The Nursing and Midwifery Council</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Placement strategy                        | <p>For information about the strategy, please see <a href="#">Strategy to enable social care placements for student nurses and nursing associates</a></p> <p>As part of the strategy, we also celebrate excellence in supporting nursing education through our commendations scheme – see <a href="#">Celebrating excellence in supporting nursing education</a> for more information.</p> <p>As part of our event, we celebrated Bay Court Nursing Home in Exeter who recently received a Gold commendation</p> |
| We are social care nursing                | <p>To find out more about how Skills for Care support Social Care Nurses, please see <a href="#">We Are Social Care Nursing</a>, and to join the social care nursing community please see <a href="#">Join the nursing community</a>.</p> <p>If you want to sign up to our forums see below</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Awards      | Please submit your nominations here: <a href="#">Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Awards: nomination criteria - GOV.UK</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Nurse prescribing                         | <p>We are exploring awareness and experience of nurse prescribing in Adult Social Care (ASC).</p> <p>Please complete our short survey to help us understand what the sector currently knows, and to identify key barriers and opportunities to support future uptake.</p> <p><a href="#">Nurse prescribing in adult social care – Fill out form</a></p>                                                                                                                                                          |