



EAST OF ENGLAND Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
Regional Quarterly Meeting 07
Tuesday 27th January 2026, 09:30-11:00

<u>Attending:</u>		
Caron Sanders-Crook	-	Regional SCNAC Co-Chair, East of England and Operations Manager, Canford Healthcare
Victoria Hulstrom	-	Regional SCNAC Co-Chair, East of England and Clinical Director for Nouvita Healthcare
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care, DHSC
Kirsten Dangerfield	-	
Louise Harper	-	Clinical Educator, Norfolk and Waveney ICB
Helen Cumbers (nee Wright)	-	External Workforce & Skills Manager, Norfolk County Council
Pauline Shaw	-	Employee Link Service Advisor, NMC
Sandie Oxborrow	-	Business Development Manager and Nurse, Suffolk Care Association
Sarah Seely	-	Lead Nurse for Independent Heath & Social Care Nurses, Eastern Region for the RCN
Eleanor Sherwen	-	Attending on behalf of Giles Thorpe, ICB CNO for Mid & South Essex
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society & SCNACs Administrator

<u>Apologies</u>		
Louise Ashley	-	NHSE Regional Chief Nurse, East of England
Zena Aldridge	-	Social Care Nurse Fellow, NIHR Nursing and Midwifery Office
Viv Barker	-	Director of Nursing for Mid and South Essex, sometimes attends on behalf of Giles Thorpe, CNO
Giles Thorpe	-	ICB CNO, Mid & South Essex ICB
Tricia D'Orsi	-	ICB CNO, Norfolk & Waveney
Deborah Marquis	-	Registered Nurse Manager, Care 24/7, Link Nurse for Pain and Palliative Care for the Eastern Region and member of Health Watch
Louise Jenkins	-	Strategic Liaison Nurse, Hertfordshire NHS
Michelle Horn	-	Director of Nursing, NHSE East of England
Angela Steggle	-	COO for Norfolk & Suffolk Care Support sometimes attends on behalf of Phil Tilney
Cheryl Hicks	-	Quality Improvement Nurse, Norfolk and Waveney ICB
Mary Edmonds	-	Deputy Dean: Practice Learning & Simulation, Faculty of Health, Medicine & Social Care, Anglia Ruskin Uni



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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Wednesday 20 May 2026. 10:00-11:30

Summary Notes:

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Updates: Deborah Sturdy provided a comprehensive update on behalf of the DHSC, highlighting upcoming events, ongoing research, major organisational changes within NHS England (NHSE) and the DHSC and the importance of sustaining the voice of social care nursing, with input from the Outstanding Society and other stakeholders:

- **Summer Nursing Conference:** Planning underway for a nursing conference in early Summer. Details of the in-person hybrid event to take place in Salford and details will follow as available.
- **Resilience Based Clinical Supervision (RBCS):** Deborah encouraged members to sign post people to the Foundation of Nursing studies free resource programme - [Resilience Based Clinical Supervision](#)
- **NIHR Research Interns:** Research interns being led by Zena Aldridge going really well and the recruitment of the second cohort will take place in late spring.
- **Sector Nursing Communication:** Deborah encouraged members to sign up to the "[We are social care nursing](#)" Newsletter. She stressed that this is going to be a vital communication for sector nurses going forward.
- **Global Majority Network:** Deborah also encouraged members to support and promote the [Global Majority Skills for Care Network](#). She is keen for us all to support colleagues, some of whom are facing work-based challenges.
- **Staff Departures and Restructuring:** Major reorganisation is underway within NHSE/ DHSC and wider NHS having significant impact on ways of working and rationalising work priorities/programmes. Deborah explained that two key administrative staff, Adem and Gloria, left her office before Christmas as part of a voluntary exit scheme, and further departures are expected, creating a challenging environment for all involved.
- **Sustaining Social Care Nursing Voice:** Deborah discussed her collaboration with the Outstanding Society (OS) to ensure regular communication and updates from the social care nursing sector, aiming to maintain visibility and influence during a period of significant change.
- **Prescribing Pilots and Evidence-Based Funding:** Deborah reported on the launch of [prescribing pilots](#) with 40 nurses enrolled, which is slightly below expectations but still



considered a positive start. She stressed the importance of robust evaluation to secure future funding and influence policy. Deborah referenced a recent speech by Darren Jones, Cabinet Office minister, underscoring the government's demand for evidence-based action and entrepreneurial approaches, reinforcing the need for measurable outcomes in nursing initiatives.

- **Nursing Strategy and Inclusivity:** Deborah updated the group on the development of the new nursing strategy led by Duncan Burton, emphasising the inclusion of social care nurses in all workstreams and the need for the strategy to represent all nurses, not just those in the NHS. This nursing strategy is scheduled for publication in early spring, though she anticipates possible delays. She reiterated her insistence that the strategy must be inclusive of all nurses, not merely an adjunct to the NHS 10-year plan, and expressed optimism about Duncan Burton's receptiveness to this approach.
- **NMC Engagement and Upcoming Events:** Deborah described ongoing engagement with the NMC, including meetings with Donna Boyle and Paul Reese, and plans for a May event focused on social care nursing, revalidation, code review, and fitness to practise referrals. She noted that the NMC will soon advertise for senior nurse posts, ensuring that new appointees are fully aware of social care nursing issues.
- **Funding Opportunities and Grants:** Deborah highlighted several upcoming funding opportunities, including small grants (£1,000-£10,000) from the Burdett Trust in March with a focus on community initiatives and Skills for Care workforce-related funding with announcements expected by the end of March aligned with the workforce strategy. Both she and Victoria urged members to pursue any available funding, emphasising the need to be proactive in seeking resources for social care nursing.

Advanced Practice Opportunities in Social Care: Kirsten Dangerfield presented an overview of advanced practice pathways, including career progression, education requirements, organisational governance, and the integration of advanced practice roles in social care:

- **Career Pathway Structure:** Kirsten explained the clinical career pathway from baseline registration through enhanced, advanced, and consultant-level practice, detailing the education and experience required at each stage.
- **Education and Supervision:** Kirsten described the master's-level training for advanced practice, the need for supervision (typically by a consultant, GP, or experienced advanced practitioner), and the challenges in securing supervision, especially in social care settings.



- **Organisational Governance:** Kirsten outlined the importance of aligning job descriptions, pay, and frameworks with advanced practice roles, and offered to share governance frameworks and job planning resources with interested organisations.
- **University Engagement:** Kirsten reported that the University of Essex accepts social care nurses into advanced practice programmes, while ARU is open to discussions about future participation.
- **Resource Sharing and Case Studies:** Kirsten offered to share educational resources and case studies, and Victoria and Caron expressed interest in disseminating these to encourage uptake among social care providers.

RCN Updates and Professional Development Initiatives: Sarah Seeley provided updates on RCN activities:

- **Career Frameworks and Standards:** Sarah described the RCN's work on defining nursing levels, setting standards against the four pillars, and updating workforce and employment standards for independent health and social care.
- **EDI and International Nurse Support:** Sarah highlighted her dual role as EDI staff lead and international educated nurse staff lead, supporting events and strategies to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Sarah invited regional partners to collaborate on coaching, career development, and sharing best practices, and provided her contact details for follow-up.

Preceptorship and Inspire Placement Updates: Louise Harper updated the group on the preceptorship pilot's progress:

- **Preceptorship Pilot Progress:** Louise reported that the first cohort of the preceptorship pilot is nearing completion, with evaluation planned soon, and noted technical challenges related to email access for preceptees.
- **Technical Solutions:** Louise explained that guest partnership agreements were used to provide managers with Teams access, but individual preceptees still lack direct access due to email limitations.
- **Inspire Blended Placement:** Louise announced the start of the Inspire blended placement project, involving students from Anglia Ruskin University, with a mix of virtual and practical experience, and plans to include UEA students in future cohorts.
- **Future Evaluation and Demonstration:** Louise agreed to provide an update and possible demonstration of the virtual learning environment at a future meeting, following the completion of the current placement cohort.



Regional Priorities and Surveys: Victoria and Caron discussed the process for setting regional priorities for the coming year:

- **Regional Priorities Survey:** Victoria asked members to complete and circulate a [Google form](#) to help identify regional priorities for the next year, with the aim of shaping future council focus areas.
- **RCN Survey Launch:** Sarah Seeley announced the launch of an RCN survey for adult social care nurses, intended to inform a position statement and future workshops, with results to be shared and discussed in the region.

Events and Networking Opportunities: The group shared information about upcoming events, encouraging participation and dissemination among networks.

- **Skills for Care Conference:** Victoria and others noted that bookings are open for the Skills for Care Eastern Regional Conference, scheduled for 4th February, and encouraged members to attend.
- **Care Show London:** Victoria and Sonia highlighted the Care Show London on 29th–30th April at London Excel, featuring a social care village, OS learning lounge and social care nursing lounge. Free tickets can be booked [here](#).

Communications, Newsletters, and Media: Caron and Victoria discussed ongoing communications:

- **Article Publication:** Caron announced the forthcoming publication of an article co-authored with Victoria on social care nursing's role in system transformation, to be shared widely once released.
- **Newsletter Contributions:** Caron invited members to submit good news stories, high-resolution photos, and short biographies for inclusion in the social care newsletter and council web page.