



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
SOUTHEAST Region Virtual Quarterly Meeting 07
Thursday 29th January 2026 – 09:30-11:00

<u>Attending:</u>		
Scarlett MacDonald	-	New Commissioning Manager – Caring Homes Group SCNAC Co-Chair, Southeast Region
Pat Conteh	-	Head of Clinical Services, Prestige Nursing & Care and SCNAC Co-Chair, Southeast Region
Melanie Bessant	-	Deputy CNO Frimley, attending on behalf of Sarah Bellars, CNO
Elizabeth Mackie	-	Chief Executive Officer, East Sussex Partnership in Care
Vikki Gray	-	Regional Safeguarding Lead and Interim Head of All Age Continuing Care, NHS England, Southeast
Hannah Morris-Ingram	-	Subject Lead for Nursing Sciences, University of Brighton
Helen Cheney	-	Health Protection Lead, Public Health, East Sussex
Kate Meacock	-	Campaigner and Founding Member of Rights for Residents
Professor Lorraine Dixon	-	Director of the Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation and Trust and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
Marisa Spice	-	Head of Learning & Development (RN) – Nellsar Care Homes. Also, Operations & Compliance Manager for two learning disability homes in Bromley
Nicola Moreton	-	Regional Regulation Advisor, NMC
Claire Pegg	-	RRDN Health and Care Director - NMAHP (2 days) Workforce and People Senior Manager (2 days) NHS England Southeast Programme Lead - Nursing and Midwifery Research Leadership (1 day) Southeast Regional Research Delivery Network
Rian Gleave	-	Lead Nurse: Independent Health & Social Care (Southeast), Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
Sue Dorling	-	SESCA (Southeast Social Care Alliance) Representative and Development Officer, Berkshire Care Association
Victoria Mcharo	-	Director / Registered Manager, McNaha Care
Wendy Newnam	-	Deputy CNO, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Tim O'Shaughnessy will attend on her behalf and Lynne Birt will be joining to shadow.
Holly Hartley	-	Attending on behalf of Nicky Lucey, CNO Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Sonia Pritchard	-	SCNACS Administrator and EA for The Outstanding Society
Sarah Bellars	-	CNO Frimley
David Porter	-	Regulation Adviser – NMC



Naomi Barnes	-	NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB
Clare Stone	-	CNO Surrey Heartlands
Shelly Hickey	-	Head of Quality & Governance, Aria Care
Anne Smith	-	Nurse, Clinical Lead for IPC, Public Health, Families, Children and Wellbeing, Brighton & Hove City Council
Claire Axon-Peters	-	Doctoral Researcher Safeguarding Lead – Adults, Maternity, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, NHS England – Southeast
Michele Lawrence	-	
Masline Chitura	-	Quality Director, Berkley Care Group
Lucie Towers	-	Care Home Quality Manager, Frimley ICB

<u>Apologies:</u>		
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care - DHSC
Zoë Fry	-	Executive Director – The Outstanding Society CIC SCNAC Chair, Southeast Region
Andrea Lewis RRC	-	Regional CNO, Southeast – NHS England
Debbie Clark	-	RNLD Registered Manager, Egalié Care
Nicola Lucey	-	CNO for Hampshire & Isle of Wight. Holly Hartley attending on behalf of Nicola
Sharon Lee	-	Senior Primary Care Workforce Programme Lead, NHS Kent and Medway
Lucy Knight	-	VIVALDI Social Care Coordinator, The Outstanding Society
Varda Lassman	-	Corporate Deputy Chief Nurse, Homerton Healthcare
Alison Cannon	-	ICB CNO for NHS Sussex ICB
Paul Lumsdon	-	ICB CNO for Kent & Medway
Marianne Davies	-	Locality Manager, Skills for Care

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- 15th May 2026, 11:00-12:30

Summary Notes:

Updates from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC): Sonia provided updates on behalf of Deborah Sturdy

- **Nursing Conference Planning:** Planning is underway for a hybrid nursing conference in early summer in Salford, led by Claire Prior, with further details to follow.
- **Foundation of Nursing Studies (FoNS) – Resilience-Based Clinical Supervision (RBCS):** Members were encouraged to signpost colleagues to the FoNS' free RBCS programme.



- **Research and Recruitment:** Sonia relayed that research interns led by Zena Aldridge of NIHR are progressing well, with recruitment for the second cohort scheduled for late spring. Claire added that only one social care intern or champion was secured for the South-Central region and encouraged wider dissemination of future opportunities to ensure equitable access.
- **Support Networks and Communication:** Members were urged to promote the global majority skills for care network and the importance of supporting colleagues facing workplace challenges and noted that links would be shared in the chat and to sign up to 'We Are Social Care Nursing' for sector communication.
- **Sector Reorganisation and Nurse Prescribing Pilots:** Sonia reported significant ongoing reorganisation within NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care, and ICBs, including voluntary redundancy programmes and consultations on new structures. Nurse prescribing pilots are underway with 14 nurses participating, and the programme is being evaluated for future funding.
- **Nursing Strategy and NMC Event:** A new nursing strategy, led by Duncan Burton, is due for publication in early spring, with social care nurses involved in all work streams. The NMC is planning a May event focused on social care nursing, revalidation code review, and fitness to practise.

Council Membership, Action Plan, and Representation: Scarlett and Pat discussed the council's action log:

- **Membership Updates and Diversity:** Scarlett requested that members submit photos and bios for the council website and emphasised the need to recruit more student nurses, paramedics, and palliative care professionals to enhance council diversity.
- **Ambulance Service Safeguarding Representation:** Scarlett identified the need for ambulance service representation on safeguarding, particularly to address avoidable hospital admissions. Vikki agreed to provide a contact for the Southeast region.
- **Ongoing Action Items:** Scarlett summarised open action items, including governance for social care prescribers, internship programme communication, a central repository for adult social care resources, preventable hospital admission, mentorship schemes, data evaluation, and infection data analysis.
- **Project Momentum and Sensitivity to Change:** Scarlett noted that ongoing ICB changes have affected project momentum but highlighted progress on the safeguarding platform and other long-term initiatives, encouraging members to share the council's work and suggest new focus areas.



HEARTH Research Project on Heat in Care Settings: Professor Lorraine Dixon presented the HEARTH research project, a multi-institutional initiative focused on health and extreme heat in care settings:

- **Project Overview and Objectives:** Lorraine explained that the HEARTH project, funded for five years, aims to assess health co-benefits of net zero transitions and reduce health risks from extreme heat in vulnerable communities, with a particular focus on care homes.
- **Research Scope and Participation:** The project involves measuring heat in various care settings, including non-NHS and extra care homes, using environmental monitoring devices and comfort surveys for both residents and staff. Participation is voluntary, and the team is seeking care homes and staff willing to be involved.
- **Ethics and Recruitment:** Lorraine clarified that NHS ethics approval is pending, currently limiting research to non-NHS settings, and invited interested parties to contact her or Rajat for further information, with recruitment targeted for the upcoming summer.
- **Collaboration with Local Authorities:** Helen, from East Sussex County Council, expressed interest in collaborating to avoid duplication of work, and Lorraine agreed to connect offline to explore joint ventures and ensure alignment with existing UCL-linked projects.
- **Practical Challenges in Care Homes:** Marisa shared experiences regarding temperature regulation in care homes, highlighting issues with uniforms, central heating, and the impact of extreme weather, and expressed interest in participating in the research.

Safeguarding Platform Development and Engagement: Scarlett and Vikki introduced the new safeguarding platform on NHS Futures:

- **Platform Features and Purpose:** The safeguarding platform, hosted on NHS Futures, offers chat spaces, resources, guidelines, and regional newsletters, aiming to connect disparate groups, facilitate sharing of best practice, and support training and learning.
- **Access and Participation:** Vikki clarified that an NHS email is not required for access, and the platform can accommodate open and closed spaces for different user groups. Members were invited to join the pilot, provide feedback, and suggest content.
- **Communications and Promotion:** Sue suggested developing promotional materials and a communications plan to increase awareness and uptake, which Scarlett and Vikki agreed to consider as the platform moves from pilot to broader implementation.
- **Collaborative Learning and Lessons Learned:** Marisa proposed a 'lessons learnt' section for sharing incident reflections, such as scalding cases, to facilitate sector-wide



learning. Pat and Scarlett supported this idea, emphasising the platform's role in collaborative problem-solving.

- **Symposium and Wider Engagement:** Elizabeth offered to include the safeguarding platform in an upcoming symposium for care providers, and Scarlett welcomed the opportunity to share and embed the platform's use across the region.

Events, Networks, and Research Opportunities: Pat and Scarlett updated members on the forthcoming events:

- **Care Show and Nurses Lounge:** The Care Show will take place in London on 29–30 April 2026, with a dedicated nurses lounge and collaboration with QICN and other partners. Members were encouraged to register and attend, with links provided in the chat.
- **Global Majority Network:** Pat highlighted the Global Majority Network for Black and Asian colleagues, promoting a face-to-face meeting in London and encouraging members to share information and support staff wellbeing, particularly in regions facing challenges.
- **CNO Meeting and Nursing Strategy:** An upcoming Chief Nursing Officer meeting will address the nursing strategy's next phase, focusing on all fields of nursing and aligning with the NHS 10-year plan. Updates will be shared with the council.
- **Research Participation:** Exeter Academy of Nursing, in collaboration with Skills for Care, is recruiting nurses and providers for a national research project on challenges in adult social care, offering virtual focus groups and a £25 voucher for participation.

Clinical Competencies and Supervision Initiatives: Scarlett provided updates on the ongoing verification of clinical competencies and promoted the Foundation in Nursing Studies' resilience-based clinical supervision programme:

- **Clinical Competencies Progress:** Scarlett reported that clinical competencies are undergoing verification and discussions regarding kite marking, with significant work continuing in the background.
- **Supervision Training Opportunities:** Scarlett highlighted available places in the Foundation in Nursing Studies' resilience-based clinical supervision programme, recommending it for teams seeking supervision training.
- **Senior Leader Clinical Supervision:** Pat suggested discussing clinical supervision resources for senior leaders at the next meeting, particularly for independent providers with limited nursing networks, and proposed reaching out to NMC colleagues for background information.



International Workforce Challenges and Support: Victoria Mcharo raised concerns about the uncertainty facing internationally recruited staff due to changing immigration policies:

- **Workforce Uncertainty and Support Needs:** Victoria highlighted anxiety among providers and staff regarding immigration status changes and sought input on sector-wide support mechanisms. Scarlett and Pat agreed to address this formally in future meetings.
- **SESCA International Recruitment Project:** Elizabeth explained that SESCO is delivering the Department of Health and Social Care's international recruitment project for skilled care workers, supporting those displaced by sponsor licence revocations and assisting nurses seeking UK registration.
- **Events for Displaced Workers:** Sue described events in Slough and Reading to support displaced international workers, noting high demand and the distress caused by job losses due to provider licence issues. She offered to provide regular updates and figures at future meetings.
- **Policy Changes and Future Planning:** Elizabeth and Sue discussed the impact of the upcoming closure of visa codes in 2028 and the indefinite leave to remain consultation, emphasising the need for ongoing communication and collaboration through SESCO and the council.
- **NMC Strategic Support:** Nicola noted that the NMC has relaunched a strategic forum to strengthen support for internationally trained nurses and midwives, and encouraged members to sign up to the community of interest for further updates.