



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
LONDON Region Quarterly Meeting 08 – Thursday 14th May 2026

<u>Attending:</u>		
Louise Keane	-	Regional Co-Chair for London
Joanna Grant	-	Regional Co-Chair for London
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, DHSC
Alin Valentin Cojocaru	-	Business Manager, Azalea Court Business
Victor Awuja	-	Care Home Liaison Lead, Lewisham Hospital TOCH Team (Owen Centre), Community Services, Lewisham Council
Glory Nyero	-	Locality Manager, Skills for Care on behalf of Laura Anthony
Isatta Sisay	-	Director of Care, Royal Trinity Hospice
Jess Cantone	-	UCLP – presenting on the Medicine Safety Improvement Programme
Kate Meacock	-	Campaigner, Rights for Residents
Mike Armstrong	-	Co-Chair, Care Providers Voice and Havering Care Homes
Mirko Ridolfo	-	Operations Lead, Majesticare Care Homes
Benedicta Okpor (Benny)	-	Social Care Nursing Clinical Practice Development Lead for South East London Integrated Care System
Jacqueline Robinson-Rouse	-	Clinical Workforce Improvement Lead, Workforce, Training & Education Directorate, NHS England (Capital Nurse)
Tawanda Bvumburai	-	Employer Link Service Advisor, NMC
Ziyantai Shiripinda	-	CQC
Tawona Nhamo	-	Registered Manager, Homefield Nursing Home, Bromley
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society and SCNACs Administrator
<u>Apologies:</u>		
Zoë Fry	-	Executive Director of Nursing, The Outstanding Society (OS)
Pam Hodge	-	Senior Lecturer in Practice Learning, Middlesex University, London
Peter Webb	-	London Care and Support (LCAS) Forum
Dean Gimblett	-	NHS
Holly Ashforth	-	Deputy Chief Nurse, North West London
Celia Jeffreys	-	Deputy Director for Safeguarding Adults, NHS North East London



Laura Anthony	-	Senior Locality Manager for the London and South East team, Skills for Care – Glory Nyero attending on her behalf
Karen Bonner	-	Regional Chief Nurse London
Vinice (Vi) Thomas	-	Director of Nursing & Quality, NHS England – London Region and Deputy CNO, Southeast London ICB, attends on behalf of Karen Bonner
Mercedes Owen	-	EA to Karen Bonner
Pat Johnson-Howell	-	Leadership Course with the RCN
Sarah Pope	-	Clinical Lead, Enfield Integrated Learning Disability Service
Gareth Noble	-	NHS
Alyce Sheedy	-	Wellbeing Ambassador, Riverstone Living
Nuno Santos-Lopes	-	Director of Care and Home Manager, KYN

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Wednesday 5th August 2026, 09:30-11:00
- Wednesday 4th November 2026, 09:30-11:00
- Wednesday 3rd February 2027, 09:30-11:00

Meeting Summary:

Update from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC): Deborah Sturdy provided a comprehensive update on national and regional developments in social care nursing:

- **NMC Social Care Nurse Advisory Group:** Deborah announced the establishment of a social care nurse advisory group by the NMC, encouraging all to join and emphasising the importance of social care nursing voices in ongoing reviews, including the code and revalidation. She urged participants to discuss these opportunities with their teams and ensure active engagement.
- **Resilience-Based Clinical Supervision:** Deborah highlighted the ongoing free offer of [resilience-based clinical supervision with FoNS](#), noting its positive evaluation and urging attendees to utilise this resource, especially given current fiscal challenges.
- **NIHR Social Care Nursing Internships:** Deborah shared that applications for the next round of [NIHR social care nursing internships](#) are open, encouraging participation from those interested in research, not just those with advanced degrees, and explaining the programme's funding and backfill arrangements.
- **DHSC and NHS England (NHSE) Changes:** Deborah discussed significant organisational changes, including the merger of NHSE and the DHSC, the resulting redundancies, and the anticipated shift in priorities and capacity, with a focus on government priorities and the reduction of additional activities.
- **Leadership Transition and Sector Collaboration:** Deborah announced her upcoming departure at the end of July, and reflected on the increasing sector collaboration,



referencing recent and upcoming events aimed at uniting social care leaders and reinforcing the collective voice of the profession.

Medicine Safety Improvement Programme (MEDSIP) and Learning Disability Initiatives:

Jess Catone from UCL Partners presented updates on the MEDSIP (slides attached):

- **Programme Overview and Aims:** Jess explained that MEDSIP aims to reduce harm from psychotropic medicines prescribed for behaviours that challenge in people with learning disabilities, emphasising proactive care planning, shared decision-making, and non-pharmacological interventions.
- **Education Webinar Series and Community of Practice:** Jess described the launch of an education webinar series and a community of practice to facilitate shared learning, peer support, and the dissemination of practical approaches, with sessions focusing on de-prescribing and models for STOMP/STAMP delivery.
- **Universal Care Plan Pilot:** Jess outlined a pilot project with Dimensions in North Central London to implement universal care plans for people with learning disabilities, aiming to improve crisis planning and ensure plans reflect individual preferences, with learning to be shared system wide.
- **Transition from Children to Adult Services:** Jess discussed challenges in prescribing for children and young people transitioning to adult services, including systemic issues, parental support gaps, and the need for additional education and resources, with plans to document and share best practices from successful programmes. Joanna agreed to contact Jess outside of the meeting for further discussion.

Social Care Placements and Student Support Developments: Louise provided an update from Pam Hodge who had sent her apologies:

- **NMC Practice Learning Review and Guidance:** Louise reported on the ongoing NMC practice learning review and the development of reasonable adjustment guidance for students, with universities working on implementation and a new e-pad section to document student support needs.
- **Quality Assurance and Data Collection:** Louise described updates to the audit tool for quality assurance, the creation of learner resources, and the introduction of buddies for new practice assessors. She highlighted challenges in collecting placement data from London universities and requested support from attendees to improve data sharing.
- **Student Learner App Initiative:** Jacqueline shared information about a new student learner app under development, which will provide students with information on job opportunities, programmes, and navigation of the system, and invited input from the council to ensure adult social care is represented.

IV Therapy in Social Care Project: Louise and Alin-Valentin updated the group on efforts to implement IV therapy in care homes:



- **Project Goals and Progress:** Alin-Valentin explained the project's aim to train social care nurses to deliver IV therapies in care homes, supported by virtual wards, to reduce hospitalisations and promote earlier discharge, particularly in complex care settings with high infection rates.
- **Funding and Stakeholder Engagement:** Louise detailed the team's attempts to secure funding from various sources, including NHSE, the Royal College of Nursing Foundation, and the Burdett Trust, and described ongoing efforts to engage residents, relatives, and care home managers in the project.
- **Training Programme Development:** The group is collaborating with Middlesex University and Capital Nurses to develop a supportive training programme, incorporating feedback from residents and relatives, and aligning with existing IV training initiatives.
- **Research and Literature Review:** Louise reported collaboration with the RCN Library Service to conduct a literature review on IV therapy in care homes, with plans to seek further research funding and share findings with the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR).

Leadership Course for Social Care Nurses: Louise provided an update on the development of an affordable leadership course for social care nurses in partnership with the RCN:

- **Course Structure and Accessibility:** Louise described the course as a one-day session at the RCN offices in London, followed by monthly online action learning sets for a year, designed to support nurses at any career stage and tailored to individual growth aspirations.
- **Participant Involvement and Evaluation:** Feedback from two surveys has shaped the course content, with ten nurses volunteering to help design the programme. The course will be evaluated through research tracking participants' progress, with a celebration event planned at the end.
- **Plans for Expansion:** The initial cohort will include 30 nurses in London, with the aim to expand and roll out the programme nationally, pending successful evaluation.

Research Updates and New Initiatives: Louise shared updates on two research projects:

- **National Institute of Health and Research (NIHR) - Funded Suicidality Research:** Louise announced the start of a research project funded by the NIHR, focusing on the experience and prevalence of suicidality in older adults in social care, and invited interested members to get involved.
- **Green Spaces and Well-Being Study:** A second project is investigating the impact of access to green spaces, views on reducing pain and increasing well-being in adult social care, with plans to seek further funding based on initial findings.



Council Direction, Collaboration, and Digital Skills: Joanna, Louise, and council members discussed the council's strategic direction, the need for broader representation, opportunities for inter-council collaboration, and the importance of digital skills and AI in social care nursing.

- **Expanding Council Representation:** Kate and others raised the importance of increasing council membership from across London and involving more people with lived experience, with Louise reporting recent efforts to recruit new members and seeking further connections.
- **Inter-Council Collaboration:** Suggestions were made to invite Co-Chairs from neighbouring councils to share updates, either live or via video, to facilitate learning and alignment across regions, with agreement to propose this at the next Co-Chairs monthly meeting.
- **Joint Training and Digital Skills:** Michael and Jacqueline highlighted the need for joint training between acute and social care providers to improve mutual understanding, and discussed the digital skills gap among nurses, suggesting the use of free online programmes and the need for strategic focus in workforce planning. Ziyana, Tawanda, Glory and Kate offered to be part of a working group looking at digital skills and workforce requirements if this was a possibility.
- **AI and Digital Policy Challenges:** Michael and Glory raised the topic of AI in social care, including ethical considerations and operational challenges such as the London Ambulance Service's policy on digital medication records, with suggestions to explore these issues further and link with ongoing university-led initiatives.



Update from Pam Hodge, Middlesex University

NMC

- NMC Practice Learning Review is out: [NMC consults on improving nursing and midwifery practice learning - The Nursing and Midwifery Council](#)
Please do complete it as important to hear from all sectors.
- Included in review -SCPHN, HV, shift to reflect hospital -> community, so ASC
- Also includes Reasonable Adjustments -> National guidance, local work will be influenced by this but also universities are working on these policies with practice partners.
- EPAD- year 1 onwards under the anytime tab- RA section to support students to share and inform PA for assessment
- Also, a reminder about using your name as it appears on the NMC register in the ePad to allow for audit if NMC reviewed.

Quality Assurance ongoing

- Audit tool review 2021 last one, now being updated to be more inclusive of a range of practice areas, including Social Care – ready for Sept 26
- Pan London Practice Learning Group other work- neurodiversity support and assessment – stand alone CPD, IEN prep [Learner Resources – Pan London Practice Learning Group](#)
- Buddy for new PAs – to support those new to the Practice Assessor role.
- EPAD issues 8.7 update – any queries? Hours now 7.5 not 7:30

MDX specific numbers

- 36 students out March-June
- Adult and MH part 1 and part 2, BSc and MSc.
- $36 \times 3 = 108$ students this year to June and then forecast total approx. 120 students
- One partner re-joining soon after staffing issues
- 15 PAs in ASC areas trained this academic year by end of this month.

ASC group PLPLG

- Chair left and on agenda for next meeting to discuss group- more interest
 - RCN Ed Forum in Exeter in April- like minds thinking about how work with domiciliary and residential also. Have a meeting next week to think about this further.
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Skills for Care International Nurses Day Event Follow Up

From: Social Care Nursing <SocialCareNursing@skillsforcare.org.uk>

Sent: 15 May 2026 9:09 AM

To: Social Care Nursing <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:

NMC practice learning review consultation	Your chance to make sure the voice of social care nursing is heard: Practice learning review consultation - The Nursing and Midwifery Council
Placement strategy	For information about the strategy, please see Strategy to enable social care placements for student nurses and nursing associates As part of the strategy, we also celebrate excellence in supporting nursing education through our commendations scheme – see Celebrating excellence in supporting nursing education for more information. As part of our event, we celebrated Bay Court Nursing Home in Exeter who recently received a Gold commendation
We are social care nursing	To find out more about how Skills for Care support Social Care Nurses, please see We Are Social Care Nursing, and to join the social care nursing community please see Join the nursing community. If you want to sign up to our forums see below
Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Awards	Please submit your nominations here: Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Awards: nomination criteria - GOV.UK



Nurse prescribing	We are exploring awareness and experience of nurse prescribing in Adult Social Care (ASC). 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. Nurse prescribing in adult social care – Fill out form
Our Forums	We run a Workforce Forum, Education Forum and Global Majority Nursing Network. To find out more about our forums, please see We Are Social Care Nursing, and to sign up to any of our forums please use the online form here: Forums sign up form
Forum co-chairs	We are looking for co-chairs for each of our forums, you do need to be a member of that forum to submit an expression of interest. For more information, and to submit an expression of interest, please see the links below: Global Majority Nursing Network Expression of Interest form (EOI) - Network co-chairs – Fill out form Nursing Education Forum Expression of Interest form (EOI) - Network co-chairs – Fill out form Nursing Workforce Forum Expression of Interest form (EOI) - Network co-chairs – Fill out form

And finally, please do complete our event feedback survey so that we can make sure that future events are as useful as possible: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/nursingforums2026-27>

Many thanks

Lucy, Emily and Jess – the Skills for Care Social Care Nursing team
