



Adult Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC)
SOUTHEAST Region Virtual Quarterly Meeting 08
Friday 15th May 2026 – 11:00-12:30

<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
Deborah Sturdy	-	Chief Nurse for Social Care - DHSC
Diana Asiamah	-	Care Home Support Team Lead (East), Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Fidelma Tinneney	-	Berkshire Care Association
Sharon Lee	-	Senior Primary Care Workforce Programme Lead, NHS Kent and Medway (RN/QN)
Amy Lovell	-	Head of Quality in NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight, attending on behalf of Wendy Newnham, Interim CNO
Lucy Knight	-	VIVALDI Social Care Coordinator, The Outstanding Society
Lynne Birt	-	Standards Manager, Allegra Care
Marisa Spice	-	Head of Learning & Development (RN) – Nellsar Care Homes. Also, Operations & Compliance Manager for two learning disability homes in Bromley
Masline Chitura	-	Quality Director, Berkley Care Group
Ruth Underdown	-	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Kate Meacock	-	Campaigner and Founding Member of Rights for Residents
Sonia Pritchard	-	SCNACS Administrator and EA for The Outstanding Society

<u>Apologies:</u>		
Zoë Fry	-	Executive Director – The Outstanding Society CIC SCNAC Chair, Southeast Region
Andrea Lewis RRC	-	Regional CNO, Southeast – NHS England
Alison Cannon	-	ICB CNO for NHS Sussex ICB
Elizabeth Mackie	-	Chief Executive Officer, East Sussex Partnership in Care
Helen Cheney	-	Health Protection Lead, Public Health, East Sussex
Vikki Gray	-	Regional Safeguarding Lead and Interim Head of All Age Continuing Care, NHS England, Southeast
Rian Gleave	-	Lead Nurse: Independent Health & Social Care (Southeast), Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
Marianne Davies	-	Locality Manager, Skills for Care



Wendy Newnam	-	Deputy CNO, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Amy Lovell attending on her behalf
Louise Keane	-	SCNAC Co-Chair, London supporting on the Suicidality in Adult Social Care Priority
Varda Lassman	-	Corporate Deputy Chief Nurse, Homerton Healthcare
Sue Dorling	-	SESCA Representative and Development Officer, Berkshire Care Association

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Tuesday 11th August 2026, 11:00-12:30
- Monday 9th November 2026, 11:00-12:30
- Tuesday 9th February 2027, 11:00-12:30

Summary Notes:

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Update: Deborah Sturdy provided an updates from the DHSC:

- **NMC Advisory Group Launch:** Deborah announced the formation of the NMC Social Care Nurse Advisory Group, which is open to all and aims to ensure social care nursing is represented at the national level. She emphasised the importance of responding to practice learning consultations and the forthcoming revalidation and code work to ensure the social care perspective is included.
- **Sector Events and Representation:** Deborah highlighted recent and upcoming events, including a seminar with Donna O'Boyle on revalidation and the code, the appointment of a new Secretary of State, and the need for continued advocacy for social care within national organisations. She also mentioned the importance of balanced representation on the NMC Council.
- **Research Interns and Quality Improvement:** A new cohort of research interns has been [launched](#), with funding and backfill provided, supporting both experienced and research-naive participants. Claire Pryor's publication on priority research questions for social care was noted as a significant development.
- **International Nurses Day and Sector Recognition:** Deborah and Pat discussed International Nurses Day events, including those at the Outstanding Society and Skills for Care, and the importance of sharing positive stories about social care nursing with the wider public to enhance recognition and value.
- **Merger and Redundancies:** Deborah explained the significant changes underway due to the merger of NHS England and the DHSC, including two rounds of redundancies, which have led to instability and uncertainty for staff across the sector.
- **Sea of Change:** Deborah confirmed that this would be her last meeting in post and thanked the Co-Chairs, the OS and the Council Members for their work and support in making SCNACs a success.



Safeguarding Futures Platform Development: Scarlett and Pat described the collaborative development of a safeguarding platform for the South East, involving multiple stakeholders and aiming for national rollout, with input from care associations, review boards, and CQC representatives.

- **Platform Features and Testing:** Scarlett explained that the safeguarding platform includes resources such as maps, serious case reviews, advisory pages, and communication tools. The platform is currently in a testing phase, with a task and finish group being formed to gather feedback from users.
- **National Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement:** The project is being piloted nationally, with advisory councils from other regions participating. Strategic-level stakeholders are involved to ensure oversight and governance, and the head of safeguarding from CQC has expressed interest in supporting the initiative.
- **Steering Group and Future Plans:** A steering group is being established to review the platform and its needs, with ongoing collaboration with care association boards and safeguarding review boards. The project aligns with national safeguarding priorities and aims to address interim concerns raised by Baroness Casey.

Suicide and Tiredness of Life Research in Social Care: Scarlett, Fidelma, and Sharon discussed a new NIHR-supported research project on suicidality and tiredness of life in older adults in social care:

- **Project Scope and Recruitment:** The research, involving Goldsmiths, Glasgow, and UCL, is in the recruitment phase and seeks to understand the prevalence and lived experience of suicidality and tiredness of life among older adults in social care. The study has ethical approval and will involve specially trained staff.
- **Staff Wellbeing and Sector Challenges:** Fidelma raised concerns about the mental health of social care staff, particularly in the context of investigations and workplace pressures. Scarlett confirmed that the project aims to identify prevalence and inform future support and training for care workers.
- **Sector Resources and Support Networks:** Sharon highlighted the Amparo support network, commissioned in some regions for those affected by suicide, and Scarlett noted that the study will map available resources and identify gaps in support across the country.
- **Sector-Specific Issues and Data Collection:** The group discussed the need for sector-specific resources and the challenge of underreporting or denial of issues by some providers. The project will collect grey data and involve national stakeholders such as Care England, Age UK, and Salford University.

Collaborative Projects and Case Studies in Social Care: The GIRFT team's call for case studies on collaborative working to prevent hospital admissions was discussed, and the council's support for sharing and promoting innovative practices across the sector.

- **GIRFT Team Case Study Promotion:** Sharon relayed a request from the GIRFT team in NHS England for examples of collaborative and innovative approaches to reducing admissions from care homes. The council agreed to circulate the request and consider forming a working group to support responses.



Clinical Competencies and Research Updates: Pat and Scarlett provided updates:

- **Clinical Competencies Review:** Clinical competencies for adult social care nurses are being reviewed and kite-marked by Salford University, with plans to roll them out as a learning and development passport once approved.

Council Representation and Bios: Council members were reminded to submit short biographies and photos for the council website, and efforts are ongoing to recruit student nurses, nurse associates, and palliative care nurses for broader representation.

Hearth Research Update: The council is awaiting further updates from Oxford Brookes University on the Hearth research project and will recirculate information and seek additional participating homes as needed.

Barriers and Challenges in Social Care Nursing: Systemic issues were discussed:

- **CGM Device Implementation Issues:** Ruth described widespread problems with the use of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices in care homes, including lack of standard operating procedures, unclear responsibilities for data collection, and technical barriers such as firewalls in large organisations like Bupa.
- **Training and Delegation Gaps:** Sharon and Pat highlighted issues with residents being discharged with CGM devices without adequate staff training, and the lack of follow-through in delegated tasks, often leaving social care staff unsupported.
- **Systemic Inequalities and Escalation Plans:** Fidelma and Scarlett noted disparities between large and small providers, the need for better integration between NHS and social care, and plans to escalate these safety concerns to relevant stakeholders for resolution.

Workforce Equality, Recognition, and Professional Identity: The need for workforce equality, recognition of social care nurses as specialists, and the importance of changing the narrative to promote pride and respect within and outside the sector was discussed:

- **International Recruitment and Parity:** Fidelma emphasised the reliance on international recruits in social care, the need for parity with NHS staff, and the challenges posed by current immigration and sponsorship policies. The group discussed advocating for fair treatment and recognition.
- **Professional Recognition and Specialist Qualifications:** Sharon and Scarlett advocated for greater recognition of social care nurses as specialists, highlighting the complexity of their roles and the need for sector-specific qualifications and professional identity.
- **Narrative and Public Perception:** Scarlett and Pat stressed the importance of changing the narrative around social care nursing, promoting positive language, and increasing public and professional awareness of the sector's value and expertise.



Empowering and Supporting the Social Care Nursing Workforce: Council members reflected on what is needed to empower social care nurses:

- **Recognition and Equality:** Sharon and Fidelma called for greater recognition of social care nurses' contributions at all levels, and for equality with NHS colleagues, including respect for their expertise and autonomy.
- **Confidence and Professional Identity:** Ruth emphasised the need for social care nurses to have confidence in their skills and to assert their professional identity, countering negative stereotypes and demonstrating their unique value.
- **Respect, Inclusion, and Communication:** Lynne and Kate highlighted the importance of respect, inclusion in the wider health system, and effective communication between social care, the NHS, and the public to foster understanding and collaboration.
- **Strategic Involvement:** Amy noted the need for social care to have a voice at strategic and local levels, particularly in the development of neighbourhood teams and integrated services, to ensure the sector's expertise informs service design.

Leadership Transition and Maintaining Momentum: The leadership gap following Deborah Sturdy's departure was highlighted:

- **Leadership Succession:** It was confirmed that no immediate replacement for Deborah Sturdy has been appointed, with discussions ongoing about future leadership. The council acknowledged the need to maintain momentum and collective advocacy during this transition.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities: Pat and Scarlett listed upcoming sector events, encouraging council participation.

- **Event Announcements:** Key upcoming events include the Global Majority Network meeting, NMC revalidation roundtable, safeguarding platform steering group, research development programme deadline, and the Nursing Times Awards.

Message from Sharon Lee:

The GIRFT Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) team and the Nursing Quality Team at NHS England, are looking to highlight innovative practice that helps avoid inappropriate hospital admissions for people living in care, residential or nursing homes.

We want to develop a small series of case studies showcasing learning and innovation in this area. If you, or your networks, are aware of examples of great practice that should be shared more widely across the healthcare community, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact chris.morrow-frost@nhs.net by 31 May 2026 with:

- Name, role and organisation
 - Contact email address
 - A few sentences describing how this approach supports people to remain in their care or nursing home and avoids unnecessary hospital admission
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NIHR Researcher Development Programme for Social Care Nurses

Claire Pegg sent her apologies and asked us to send the below information which Deborah also mentioned in her update:

The Researcher Development Programme for Social Care Nurses is now open for applications.

This funded programme supports social care nurses to develop research skills, lead practice-based projects and champion research in their organisations.

It includes funded protected time (1 day per week), mentorship and a national peer network.

Apply by 14 June

Claire has said she is happy to speak to anyone who would like more information or advice on this application. Email address: clairepegg@nhs.net

[Researcher Development Programme for Social Care Nurses | NIHR](#)

Message from Masline Chitura:

Masline asked to send out to our members to help with her research with Wrexham University into **Perceptions of Values-Based Recruitment and Workforce Retention in UK Care Homes:**

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=2Hi6C01P2U2bWu4SGxFu_vhhqy9weLpEiy36fVO5R7VUOUJTM0JITjZNT0RCS0tSVTZWNTVZUTEyTy4u&route=shorturl

Skills for Care [Strategy to enable social care placements for student nurses and nursing associates](#)

SFC are also exploring awareness and experience of nurse prescribing in Adult Social Care via survey to help us understand what the sector currently knows, and to identify key barriers and opportunities to support future uptake:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=F3AXF1B5kOtoXZo-a0_n9zCNsG-vJdCowQvAllowChUMzNDRkQ0VE01TDZTMIVWUVIFNEICM1BKUi4u

Also, information on the FoNS Network: RBCS Implementation Event in June- [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)



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
