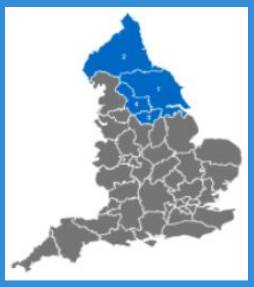
NORTH EAST & YORKSHIRE Social Care Nursing Advisory Council (SCNAC) Quarterly Virtual Meeting 09 Thursday 30th July 2026, 09:30-11:00



Attending:		
Anthony Birmingham	-	Chair of North East & Yorkshire SCNAC & Registered Manager for Positive Individual Proactive Support Ltd
Karen Roberts	-	Co-Chair of North East & Yorkshire SCNAC & Group Head of Health & Clinical Governance for Lifeways Group
David Purdue	-	Regional Chief Nurse, North Eastern Yorkshire, NHSE
Lesley Bainbridge	-	Clinical Lead Physical Health, Home Group Co-Chair for Skills for Care Workforce Forum (Voluntary)
Sarah Fiori	-	Head of Adult Social Care Nursing, Humber North Yorkshire ICB & Principal Nurse, North Yorkshire Council
Michelle Raddings	-	Lead Nurse Independent Health & Social Care (Yorkshire & the Humber), RCN
Nikki Meadows (nee Meston)	-	Employment Link Service (ELS) Adviser North East & Yorkshire, Independent Health & Social Care, NMC
Ntombi Ncube	-	RN and Clinical Lead, Melbury Court - Durham
Jo Cameron	-	Health & Social Care Integration Lead, Primary Care/Research Fellowship, South Yorkshire ICB attending on behalf of Cathy Winfield
Ciona McLennan	-	Complex Care Nurse, Prestige Nursing & Care, Wakefield
Sarah Wighton	-	Associate Director of Nursing & Quality for West Yorkshire ICB – taking over in the interim from Debbie Winder
Andrea Kingston	-	RN & Clinical Educator, Practice Development, Voyage Care
Rachael Wheeldon	-	Adult Nursing Lecturer, Placement & Social Care Lead, York St. John University
Ian Nelson	-	Locality Manager, Skills for Care North Region
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society & SCNACs Administrator

Apologies:		
Jane Cronin-Davis	-	Practice Educator, Social Care
Ian Bennett	-	Director of Nursing & Quality, Kirklees & Calderdal Place, West Yorkshire
Beverley Geary	-	ICB CNO, West Yorkshire
Lynne Shaw	-	Strategic Workforce Development Lead – Enhanced Care for Older People (EnCOP), School of Health and Life Sciences, Teeside University
Jo Ward	-	RN Learning Disabilities & Mental Health / Queen's Nurse Nurse Consultant / Head of Practice Development - Voyage Care
Angela Fraser	-	Strategic Workforce Development Lead – Enhanced Care for Older People (EnCOP), School of Health and Life Sciences, Teeside University
Fameeda Lennon	-	Registered Manager, Harmony House Nursing Home

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Tuesday 10th November 2026, 09:30-11:00
- Wednesday 10th February 2027, 09:30-11:00

Summary Notes:

Updates on Social Care Nursing Leadership and Structure: Karen, David, and Anthony discussed recent changes in social care nursing leadership:

- **Leadership Transition:** Karen explained that Deborah Sturdy had left her role, and Duncan Burton will temporarily oversee social care nursing, supported by a new part-time senior advisor post for eight months. The council discussed the importance of maintaining social care's profile during this transition and the ongoing recruitment process for the senior advisor role.
- **Role of Chief Nursing Officers:** With Deborah Sturdy's departure, Regional Chief Nursing Officers (CNOs) are now providing updates at the SCNACs Quarterly meetings. David Purdue outlined his expanded portfolio, which now includes neighbourhood health, and emphasised the importance of social care's voice in this area.
- **Strategic Meetings and Involvement:** David invited group members to participate in quarterly strategic meetings on neighbourhood health, aiming to ensure social care is represented alongside primary care and community providers.
- **Implications for Social Care:** The council expressed optimism that Duncan Burton's involvement and the new advisor role would help maintain momentum for social care nursing, with Karen noting Deborah Sturdy's efforts to ensure a smooth handover and continued advocacy for the sector.

Student Nurse Placements and Preceptorship in Social Care: The challenges and opportunities related to student nurse placements in social care was discussed:

- **Placement Capacity and Preceptorship:** David highlighted the need to expand placement capacity for student nurses in social care, referencing the graduate guarantee and the importance of positive experiences. Anthony described Skills for Care's preceptorship programme, which aims to standardise support for newly qualified nurses and create a list of providers offering robust preceptorship.
- **Myth-Busting and Provider Engagement:** Karen and Anthony discussed persistent myths among providers, such as the belief that only nursing homes can host student nurses. They emphasised the need to educate both providers and students about the value and feasibility of social care placements, including for non-nursing disciplines like paramedics.
- **HEI Collaboration and Curriculum Integration:** Rachael and Sarah Fiori shared experiences from York St John University and the ICB, noting the importance of embedding social care into nursing curricula and the need for better relationships with HEIs to ensure consistent, high-quality placements.
- **Sharing Best Practice and Resources:** Jo Cameron and others described successful placement initiatives in South Yorkshire and the development of toolkits and funding transfers to support social care providers. The council agreed on the value of sharing resources and not 'reinventing the wheel.'

Perceptions and Professional Identity of Social Care Nurses: The ongoing challenges around the professional identity and perception of social care nurses was explored:

- **Hierarchy and Culture:** Lesley referenced research highlighting a perceived hierarchy between NHS and social care nurses, with social care often seen as less prestigious. The council discussed the need for cultural change within the profession to address this disparity.
- **NMC Code and Professional Recognition:** Nikki confirmed that feedback about the undervaluing of social care nurses is being relayed to those reviewing the NMC code, and regular sessions are held to ensure these issues are considered in ongoing consultations.
- **Role Titles and Career Pathways:** Karen and Anthony discussed the lack of 'nurse' in many social care job titles due to regulatory constraints, despite the advanced skills and responsibilities held by these professionals. They suggested small changes, such as including RN in email signatures, to increase visibility.

- **Curriculum and Student Perceptions:** Rachael and Sarah Fiori noted that social care is often underrepresented in nursing curricula, leading to limited student awareness and interest. Efforts are underway to embed social care more fully into educational programmes and to highlight the unique skills developed in these settings.

Raising the Profile of Learning Disability Nurses: Anthony and Karen presented a proposal for a campaign to raise the profile of RNLDs (Registered Nurses in Learning Disabilities) in social care, with input from the council on campaign structure, content, and alignment with ongoing research and strategic priorities.

- **Campaign Proposal:** Anthony shared a draft campaign format titled 'RN LD Real Stories, Real Impact,' featuring standardised questions, personal stories, and myth-busting elements. The campaign aims to showcase the diversity and value of RNLD roles, particularly in social care.
- **Alignment with Research:** Karen noted that the campaign aligns with ongoing research by Claire Pryor (Salford University) on LD nursing, and suggested integrating findings once available to strengthen the campaign's evidence base.
- **Inclusion and Scope:** The council agreed to initially focus on RNLDs in social care but to keep the campaign open to all RNLDs, highlighting the breadth of roles and experiences without excluding those in health settings.
- **Resource Sharing and Education:** Karen and Anthony emphasised the campaign's potential as a resource for education partners, helping to inform students and providers about the opportunities and impact of RNLD careers.

Delegated Healthcare Activities and Policy Development: Updates were provided on ongoing work around delegated healthcare activities (DHA), including task and finish groups, national steering groups, and the development of guidance for delegators.

- **Task and Finish Groups:** Jo Cameron reported that Sheffield City Council is hosting a task and finish group to address commissioning challenges and barriers related to DHA, with involvement from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).
- **National Steering Group Involvement:** Karen confirmed ongoing participation in the Skills for Care national steering group on DHA, ensuring that the council's perspectives are represented in national guidance and policy discussions.
- **Development of Guidance for Delegators:** Work is being carried out on new guidance for delegators, including nurses, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists, to clarify responsibilities and address anxieties around delegation, particularly regarding regulatory and accountability issues.
- **Research and Future Developments:** Upcoming research from Manchester and ongoing events chaired by Care England are expected to inform future policy and practice, with the council committed to sharing findings and best practice.

Collaboration and Networking Among Education Providers: The need for greater collaboration among higher education institutions (HEIs) to support social care nursing education, share best practice, and develop forums for collective action was discussed and Sarah Wighton raised the idea of creating forums for HEIs to collaborate on integrating social care into nursing curricula, share experiences, and interpret national guidance collectively. Jo Cameron and Ian provided contacts and resources to support this initiative.

Celebrating Success and Chief Nurse Awards: Nominations for the Adult Social Care Chief Nurse Awards were encouraged, highlighting the importance of recognising achievements in social care and ensuring a balance between NHS and social care recipients. Chief Nurse Awards include gold, silver, and team categories, and are open to a range of social care professionals, not just nurses.

Any Other Business and Future Meetings: The council confirmed future meeting dates (included above) and reiterated the value of sharing resources and best practice across the network. Karen and Anthony invited suggestions for new members, particularly frontline and student nurses, to ensure diverse perspectives in future meetings.

Additional Information:

From: Lorna Chesterton <L.Chesterton3@salford.ac.uk>
Sent: 29 July 2026 17:02
Subject: Request to support dissemination of the Standards Setting questionnaire

Dear Colleague,

We are inviting you to take part in an important national study, funded by the General Nursing Council Trust (GNCT) to help shape the future of nursing, and nurse associate student placements in adult social care.

As part of this work, we have developed a set of draft **Standards for Nursing Student Placements in Social Care Learning Environments**. These standards have been produced to help social care organisations recognise, prepare, support and sustain placements for nursing students and nursing associate students. We have presented these standards around a model called **The CARES framework**

You are invited to participate if you are a: Nursing and Midwifery Council Registered Nurse; Nursing Associate or Registered Manager with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in England, or Social Care Wales, or working in, or directly supporting, adult social care in England or Wales through practice, education or policy.

We would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will be analysed and used to develop a second-round questionnaire. If you choose to continue participating, you will be invited to review your original ratings alongside the group's responses before providing your final ratings.

Please note that this questionnaire is not intended for staff working in services that provide care **into** adult social care settings, such as community nursing, Hospital at Home, virtual wards, GP nursing teams or frailty teams.

Your expertise and experience are invaluable to this work, and we would greatly appreciate your contribution.

Here's the link to the survey: https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/salford/standards-for-student-nurse-placements-in-social-care

If you wish to know more about the project, we have produced a short video telling you how we developed the standards, which is available here: https://youtu.be/jJUAfuZZ0Gs

Please could you share this email with all your networks and colleagues working in social care

Thank you in advance for your help with this
With best wishes
Lorna

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