



SOUTH-WEST
Social Care Nursing Advisory
Council (SCNAC)
Virtual Quarterly Meeting 09
Thursday 6th August 2026
Virtual Meeting: 09:30-11:00
Opening at 09:15 for Networking



<u>Attending:</u>		
Cheryl Angco	-	Co-Chair for Southwest SCNAC and Co-Head of Clinical & Quality Assurance, Ashfield Services
Cindy Willcocks	-	Co-Chair for Southwest SCNAC and Director for Arterne Group Businesses
Bernie Edwards	-	Deputy Director of Nursing, NHS Southwest, attending on behalf of Jill Crook the Regional Chief Nurse
Aminat Alidu	-	Senior Support Worker
Anne Lewin	-	Home Manager, Royal British Legion
Caroline Holt	-	Employer Link Service Adviser (ELS), NMC
Christiana Fisher	-	Skills for Care
Hilary Robinson	-	CEO / RN, Registered Care Providers Association (RCPA, Somerset)
Pat Schofield	-	Professor of Clinical Nursing, University of Plymouth
Sarah Winfield-Davies	-	Lead Nurse, Independent Health & Social Care (Southwest), RCN
Simon Fagg	-	Clinical Nurse Advisor & Deputy Caldicott Guardian, Milestones Trust (BNSSG & BSW)
Victoria Hamer	-	Student Nursing Associate, Royal Devon University Healthcare, NHS Foundation Trust
Louise Keane	-	London SCNAC Co-Chair and Guest Speaker
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for The Outstanding Society & SCNACs Administrator

<u>Apologies:</u>		
Lia Alves	-	Practice Educator, Cornwall Primary Care Training Hub, & Truro College Adult Nurse & Health Allied Lecturer
Gill May	-	CNO BSW ICB – no longer in post
Annie Dale	-	Head of Nursing, Southwest Prisons
Vanessa Ongley	-	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
Helen Stapleton	-	Associate Director of Strategic Workforce Transformation, Somerset Integrated Care System
Denise Moorhouse	-	Deputy CNO NHS BNSSG ICB
Marie Crofts	-	CNO, Gloucestershire ICB
Charlotte Fry	-	Independent Nurse Consultant - Caring Footsteps
Carolyne Hague	-	Deputy Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professions – NHS Devon.
Shelagh Meldrum	-	CNO NHS Somerset IC
Rosi Shepherd	-	CNO, BNSSG ICB
Jill Crook	-	Director of Nursing Professional and System Leadership and Regional CNO – Bernie Edwards attending on her behalf
Charley Day	-	PA to Lisa Vogwell
Lisa Vogwell	-	Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality, NHS Foundation Trust, Southwestern Ambulance Service
Mary Anson	-	MD, Anson Care Services
Vicky Rees	-	Director of Clinical Operations – MPS Healthcare

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Face to face Event – TBC October 2026, Venue TBC
- Virtual Quarterly Meeting - Tuesday 17th November 2026, 09:15-11:00
- Virtual Quarterly Meeting - Thursday 4th February 2027, 09:15-11:00
- Face to Face Event - Friday 9th April 2027, SW House, Taunton

Summary Notes:

Chief Nursing Officer and National Policy Updates: Bernie Edwards provided a comprehensive update on national policy changes:

- **Leadership Changes and New Roles:** Bernie informed the group that Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, has stepped down from her role in July 2026, and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) were considering applications for a new (part-time) senior advisor for adult social care, reporting to the Chief Nursing Officer for England, Duncan Burton.
- **Professional Strategy and Workforce Plan:** The professional strategy for nursing, midwifery, and nursing associates has been developed but is awaiting publication due to ministerial changes. The workforce plan is also pending, and Bernie offered to share resources such as the 'workshop in a box' used in strategy development.
- **Organisational Change and ICS Boundaries:** Bernie explained that NHS England is undergoing significant organisational change, merging into the DHSC by April 2027, with ICBs (Integrated Care Boards) being reduced by 50% and potential changes to boundaries to align with new mayoral areas.
- **Strategic Frameworks and Health Planning:** Six modern service frameworks are being implemented, with two (coronary vascular disease and sepsis) already published. There is also a shift towards both summer and winter planning due to increased mortality during heatwaves, and social care nursing is encouraged to be involved in these plans.
- **Social Care Reform and Ministerial Priorities:** Bernie highlighted that social care reform remains a government priority, with new mandates expected from the new Prime Minister and Secretary of State, focusing on areas such as maternity, children, young people, families, and mental health.

CNO Summit and Social Care Integration: Cindy and Cheryl reported on the CNO Summit, noting a strong focus on health and social care integration, mental health, and wellbeing, with significant engagement from social care representatives:

- **Summit Themes and Participation:** Cindy described the CNO Summit as her first, highlighting its focus on integrated health and social care, with Yvette Cooper attending early in her new role and discussions around the 'sure start' model for communities. Cindy confirmed that there was much conversation and reference to Social Care which was good to hear and highlighted another key focus area being on the personal and professional impact of challenging jobs during challenging times and the story of 'Darren' who provided a thought-provoking powerful story of services letting someone down and lessons learned.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing Focus:** Cheryl noted that the summit's morning session focused on prevention and the afternoon on mental health, with the entire day centring on mental health and wellbeing, and frequent references to social care throughout.
- **Information Sharing and Publications:** Cindy encouraged everyone to look out for OS newsletter/magazine due for release shortly which includes an article she wrote about the CNO Summit

Student Representation and Council Review: Cheryl discussed the expansion of student representation within the council:

- **Student Representative Recruitment:** Cheryl explained that Victoria, though under Greater Manchester University, is based in the Southwest in a satellite site, and new student representatives from Southampton University are expected to join soon, with recruitment efforts supported by personal connections.
- **Council Membership Review:** A full review of council membership is underway to assess engagement and participation, with plans to share findings at the next regional meeting and to contact members directly to confirm their involvement and interests.

- **Specialist Group Meetings Reset:** Cheryl cancelled all ongoing subject matter expert meetings (blueprint strategic, education specialist, dementia specialist, and suicide prevention) to reschedule and improve accessibility, aiming for better calendar integration and participation.
- **WhatsApp Group for Communication:** A WhatsApp group has been established for more responsive communication among council members, with a self-join policy to ensure consent and facilitate informal sharing, polls, and updates between meetings.

Social Media and Regional Collaboration Initiatives: Cindy and Cheryl outlined plans to pilot social media engagement for SCNACs across regions:

- **Social Media Pilot Launch:** Cindy announced the launch of a Facebook and Instagram pilot for SCNACs, with the intention to expand to LinkedIn, aiming to facilitate sharing and amplify the group's collective voice.
- **Regional Participation and Expansion:** Cindy confirmed that other regions, such as the Northwest, have had pages set up by Southwest and are interested in joining the pilot, with the goal of leveraging collective power to disseminate messages and events more widely.

Skills for Care Nursing Workstream Updates: Christiana Fisher provided an overview of Skills for Care's national and regional nursing workstreams:

- **T Levels and Apprenticeship Awareness:** Skills for Care is raising awareness of T levels and apprenticeship routes into social care nursing, with a report on health T levels forthcoming and planned webinars and roundtable events to inform sector insights.
- **Placement Strategy Implementation:** The team is working with universities, colleges, and care providers to implement placement strategy recommendations, aiming to grow placement capacity and support providers in achieving gold commendation for student placements.
- **Preceptorship and Career Frameworks:** Efforts are underway to embed preceptorship programmes for adult social care nurses, supported by a community of practice, and to develop a career framework in partnership with the University of Salford and the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Foundation.
- **Research and Regional Engagement:** Regionally, Christiana is collaborating with NHS England teams to run webinars and expand placement opportunities, with a focus on aligning new models of practice to the 10-year plan and promoting the social care nursing workforce.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Independent Health and Social Care Support: Sarah Winfield-Davies presented the resources and support available from the RCN for independent health and social care professionals:

- **RCN Professional Support and Resources:** Sarah explained the dual role of the RCN (trade union and professional arm), with her focus on supporting members outside the NHS, promoting membership, and providing professional guidance and resources.
- **Webpage and Events:** A [dedicated web page](#) serves as a one-stop shop for resources, events, and links relevant to independent health and social care professionals, with regular updates and national events open to both members and non-members.
- **Forums and Networks:** Sarah highlighted the availability of up to 30 forums within the RCN, including a Care Home Network Facebook group, and encouraged participation to access information and peer support.
- **Workplace Visits and Signposting:** Sarah offered to conduct workplace visits and signpost managers and staff to relevant RCN resources, emphasising the importance of promoting available support for those outside the NHS.

Nursing and Midwifery Council Updates: Caroline provided updates from the NMC:

- **Revalidation and Code Consultation:** A consultation on revalidation and the NMC code will begin in September and run until December, with input sought on updates related to racism, AI, sustainability, and social media, aiming for rollout by the end of 2027.
- **Demographic and International Recruitment Trends:** Caroline reported that 33% of nurses on the register are from black, Asian, or ethnic minority backgrounds, with a notable decrease in international joiners, particularly from the Philippines, and a shift towards India, Nigeria, and Ghana.

- **Discrimination and Fitness to Practise:** The NMC is addressing internal and external biases in fitness to practise referrals and processes, with new guidance on discrimination and a focus on cultural transformation.
- **Support Helpline Consolidation:** The NMC has combined its four helplines into a single 24-hour care line to provide emotional and confidential support for those involved in fitness to practise cases or affected by referrals.
- **Protection of the Nurse Title:** The NMC is supporting government efforts to protect the title of 'nurse' to prevent misuse and ensure public safety.

London SCNACS Projects and Best Practice Sharing: Louise Keane, Co-Chair for the London SCNAC, shared insights from the London council's projects (presentation attached), with active discussion and knowledge exchange with the Southwest region.

- **Health and Wellbeing Bus Initiative:** Louise described the development and operation of a health and wellbeing bus for adult social care staff, which provided on-site health checks, coaching, and support, identified significant unmet health needs, and facilitated access to GPs, with positive feedback but discontinued funding.
- **EXPRESS Study on Suicidality:** The EXPRESS study, funded by NIHR, investigates the prevalence and experience of suicidality among older adults in adult social care, focusing on staff responses to disclosures and aiming to develop evidence-based recommendations and training.
- **IV Therapy in Nursing Homes:** A new model is being developed to enable registered nurses in adult social care to provide IV therapy within nursing homes, supported by co-produced education programmes, governance frameworks, and research partnerships, with the goal of reducing avoidable hospital admissions.
- **Best Practice and Collaboration:** Louise emphasised the importance of nurse-led interventions, resisted dilution of roles, and encouraged sharing of project materials and ongoing collaboration between London and Southwest regions.
- **Cindy and Cheryl thanked Louise for sharing the London projects and reiterated how they align with project work needed in the Southwest.** The starting point in January 2026 had been to show the Southwest region why mental health promotion and suicide prevention are linked to Social Care as not all council members thought this was relevant.

Southwest Regional Projects and Events Planning: Cindy and Cheryl updated the group on upcoming Southwest SCNACS events:

- **Upcoming Face-to-Face Events:** Two face-to-face events are planned for the Southwest SCNACS, with the next in October (venue to be confirmed) and another booked for 9th April 2027, aiming for full-day sessions to allow more comprehensive engagement. This was building on the success of the first Southwest region Face to Face event in April 2026.
- **Baseline Questionnaire for Health and Wellbeing/Prevention:** Cindy is meeting with University Hospital Plymouth CNO to progress distribution of baseline questionnaires to the workforce. Please contact Cindy if there are other sites wishing to pilot the questionnaire.
- **Arterne: Enriching the next generation CIC** has been selected as one of 11 projects by The Burdett Trust for Nursing to share their model and story and is linked to mental health promotion and suicide prevention. Cindy offered to update the council in the Autumn.
- **Regional Roadshow for Prevention:** A regional roadshow is being organised to visit every county, focusing on workforce wellbeing, dementia, and suicide prevention, with efforts to secure funding and venues, and a commitment to evidence-based practice and monthly project meetings.

Student Placement Standards and Research Collaboration: Sonia and Cindy highlighted ongoing efforts to promote standards for nursing student placements:

- **Student Placement Standards Survey:** Sonia shared a survey link for standards in nursing student placements and social care learning environments (information included below), encouraging wide dissemination and participation.
- **Salford Research Involvement:** Cindy and Cheryl have been involved in research at the University of Salford regarding student placements, with the next face-to-face meeting scheduled for November and student representatives encouraged to participate.

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: [GNCT Survey](#)

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

Dr Lorna Chesterton
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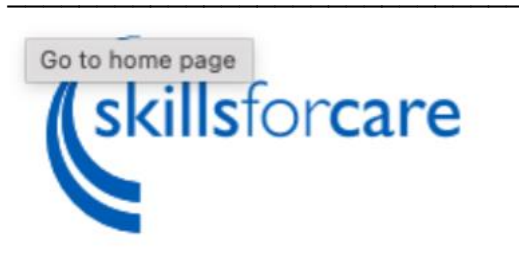
Shared in the meeting chat by Pat Schofield:

The School for Social Care Research is inviting applications for our Career Development Awards. The deadline for applications is **5pm Thursday 24th September**.

This fund offers up to £75k for individuals in social care practice or research to undertake personalised training activities and **advance their professional development in adult social care research**. CDAs can be used towards salary buy-out to undertake the award activities, training fees, and direct costs such as travel for placements or small-scale preparatory research. [Visit our funding webpage](#) to read the award guidance, watch our informational webinar recording and download an application form.

Prospective applicants are also invited to get in touch with [Research Support Service Specialist Centre for Social Care \(RSS\)](#) for free, confidential advice about their award plans. Applicants are welcome to get in touch via the [online enquiry form](#), even if you are unsure about the specific type of support required at this stage.

<https://teams.public.onecdn.static.microsoft/evergreen-assets/safelinks/2/atp-safelinks.html>



Join us to explore nurse prescribing in adult social care

Wednesday 14 October | 14:00 15:00 | online

Nurse prescribing has the potential to improving access to medicines, improve person-centred care and make the best use of nursing expertise in adult social care settings.

Whether you're a registered nurse, employer, workforce lead or educator, this event is an opportunity to explore how prescribing can strengthen services and support better outcomes for people drawing on care.

The session will bring together experts to share current developments, practical insights and examples of how nurse prescribing is being implemented across adult social care.

You'll gain a better understanding of the opportunities, challenges and support available to develop prescribing roles within your organisation.

[Find out more and book your place](#)

<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/news-and-events/Events/October/Nurse-prescribing-in-adult-social-care.aspx>

Calling all nurses and support care workers

Climate change presents an immediate and growing threat to health. You, as nurses and support care workers alongside those working in the NHS, are the biggest solution to improving sustainability in health and care.

Find out how you can make a difference by scanning the QR codes below.



Connect, share insights and promote greener practices with the **Greener NHS Sustainability Futures Knowledge Hub**. Here, you can access tools, training, case studies and much more. Scan the QR code to begin!

The Circular Economy: Opting for Reusable Health Care Products

NHS Supply Chain is dedicated to supporting the NHS and partners in care to reach its net zero targets. We recognise our cross-functional role and the power of collaboration to influence positive change.



Scan the QR code to visit the **NHS Supply Chain's Sustainability Opportunities webpage**

Discover innovative choices backed by data and real-world success stories.



What's Next?

Visit the links below to find out more.



Register with the National Nursing and Midwifery Sustainability Network

Providing guidance, resources and advocacy so that nurses and midwives can drive high quality, equitable, lower carbon and resilient healthcare systems.



Scan here for resources on sustainable nursing - from books and reports to journal articles and more

Scan to discover how the RCN is empowering nurses to lead climate action and build a sustainable future for health and care.



Develop tangible changes with the Design for Life roadmap

Design for Life aims to reduce single-use devices, improve capacity and deliver the right products at the right price. It's also exploring changes to innovative product design and regulations.



Sign up for the Nursing and Midwifery bulletin from the Chief Nursing Officer

Provides key information for nursing, midwifery and care staff with a focus on workforce, leadership and other important updates.