



**SOUTH EAST Social Care Nursing
Advisory Council (SCNAC)
Virtual Quarterly Meeting 09
Tuesday 11th August 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
Andrea Lewis RRC	-	Regional CNO, Southeast – NHS England
Aby Mitchell	-	Senior Lecturer Adult Nursing, Faculty Lead for Simulation, Kings College London. Attending on behalf of Mary Raleigh, Associate Dean for Practice Learning
Costin Matei	-	Home Manager, Care UK
Liz Mackie	-	CEO, Brighton and Hove and East Sussex Partnership in Care, representing SESCA (with Sue Dorling) and Care Associations regionally.
Emese (Emily) Soric	-	Clinical Manager, St. George's Nursing Home – Allegra Care. Attending on behalf of Lynne Birt, Standards Manager, Allegra Care
Jillian Pawlyn	-	RN – Learning Disabilities and Field Lead - Learning Disabilities, The Open University
Sharon Lee	-	Senior Primary Care Workforce Programme Lead, NHS Kent and Medway (RN/QN)
Marisa Spice	-	Head of Learning & Development (RN) – Nellsar Care Homes. Also, Operations & Compliance Manager for two learning disability homes in Bromley
Claire Pegg	-	NMAHP Health and Care Director, Regional Research Delivery Network (RRDN), Southeast. Workforce and People and Senior Manager and NHSE SE Programme for Lead for Research
Rian Gleave	-	Lead Nurse: Independent Health & Social Care (Southeast), Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
Sarah Greenway	-	RN Nurse Consultant and CEO, MDT Online Co-Founder and Chair of Trustees, The Healing Hubs Charity. NED and Wellbeing Board Chair, Sunrise Sanctuary Healthcare
Sue Dorling	-	SESCA Representative and Development Officer, Berkshire Care Association (BCA)
Sara Heholt	-	Co-Chair for the Global Majority Nursing Network
Walter Chikanya	-	Commissioning Director, TLC Care
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
Lucy Knight	-	VIVALDI Social Care Coordinator, The Outstanding Society

Caroline Holt	-	Regional Regulation Advisor, NMC
Melanie Bessant	-	Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Frimley
Vikki Gray	-	Regional Safeguarding Lead and Interim Head of All Age Continuing Care, NHS England, Southeast
Lynne Birt	-	Standards Manager, Allegra Care - Emese (Emily) Soric attending on Lynne's behalf
Claire Axon-Peters	-	Doctoral Researcher Safeguarding Lead – Adults, Maternity, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
Wendy Newnam	-	Deputy CNO, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Amy Lovell attending on her behalf
Amy Lovell	-	Head of Quality in NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight, attends on behalf of Wendy Newnam, Interim CNO
Alison Cannon	-	ICB CNO for NHS Sussex ICB
Laura-Jane Osbaldeston	-	Attends on behalf of Wendy Newnam and Amy Lovell
Kate Meacock	-	Campaigner and Founding Member of Rights for Residents
Jo Wild	-	Head of Standards, Allegra Care
Jennie Hall	-	CNO Kent and Medway ICB

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

Date of Future Meetings:

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

Summary Notes:

Social Care Nurse Shadowing and Collaboration Initiatives: Sharon Lee from Kent and Medway NHS presented on initiatives enabling social care nurses to shadow acute frailty and dementia teams:

- **Programme Overview and Rationale:** Sharon described the context and rationale for the shadowing initiative, highlighting the large number of social care nurses in Kent and Medway and the need for integrated learning across acute, primary, and social care settings. The programme aimed to strengthen understanding of the patient journey, particularly in frailty and dementia care, and to foster collaboration between care homes and acute teams.
- **Implementation and Outcomes:** The initial shadowing involved seven social care nurses spending a day with the acute frailty team, which led to increased appreciation of holistic care, improved discharge planning, and recognition of the importance of early frailty identification in care homes. Feedback from both acute and social care nurses indicated enhanced confidence, skill development, and willingness to collaborate.
- **Dementia Crisis Team Shadowing:** Social care nurses also shadowed the dementia crisis team, leading to improved holistic assessments, better documentation, earlier family involvement, and more timely referrals to specialist services. Nurses reported increased ability to recognise early deterioration and to use non-pharmacological strategies, with all participants expressing interest in repeating the experience.
- **Challenges and Funding:** Sue Dorling raised questions about the duration and funding of the shadowing, with Sharon confirming that initial placements were one day and expanded based on interest, but no funding was available for backfill or staff release. The programme relied on willing participants and employer support.

- **Future Plans and Broader Engagement:** Plans include evaluating acute frailty nurses' placements in care homes, exploring innovative placements for undergraduate nurses, and promoting the Kent and Medway nurse brand to foster a unified nursing identity. Sharon and Andrea discussed the importance of raising the profile of social care nurses and sharing best practice through wider networks and publications.

NHS England and Regional Change Programme Update: Andrea Lewis provided an update on the NHS England change programme, including structural changes, transition to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), new ministerial appointments, and the implications for regional teams and social care collaboration:

- **Structural Changes and Transition:** Andrea outlined the ongoing consultation and restructuring within NHS England, with regional teams remaining but becoming part of the DHSC. The transition involves voluntary redundancies, recruitment into new roles, and a shift towards more collaborative and efficient working.
- **National and Regional Leadership:** The national team is yet to finalise its structure, with the transition expected to complete by April. Regional teams will have a strengthened oversight role, and discussions are ongoing about the best direction for integrating NHS and social care functions.
- **Ministerial Appointments and Strategic Direction:** Andrea highlighted the appointment of Yvette Cooper as Secretary of State and Alison McGovern as Minister for Social Care, noting their engagement with the sector and the opportunity for councils to influence policy and advocate for social care nursing.
- **Quality and Workforce Strategies:** The new NHS quality strategy has been launched, and a nursing and midwifery strategy is expected in the autumn. Andrea emphasised the importance of these strategies for workforce development and the need for regional councils to contribute to their implementation.
- **Funding and Council Support:** Andrea confirmed a commitment of £9,999 in funding for the council, with encouragement for other Regional CNOs to provide similar support. The aim is to strengthen the role of councils in driving innovation and best practice in social care.

Clinical Competency Frameworks and Safeguarding Platform Development: Scarlett and Pat discussed the development and national peer review of clinical competency frameworks for nurses, the ongoing safeguarding platform pilot, and the integration of these tools to support workforce development and best practice in social care:

- **Safeguarding Platform Progress:** Scarlett reported on the task and finish group developing a national safeguarding platform, which is being trialled with input from NHS Safeguarding, CQC, and other organisations. The platform aims to facilitate sharing of best practice and support for safeguarding issues in social care.
- **Clinical Competency Framework Development:** A national framework for clinical competencies has been developed in collaboration with Skills for Care, Queen's Institute of Community Nursing (Qicn), and the University of Salford, with peer review and funding from the Burdett Trust. The framework covers all nursing specialities in social care and is designed to be transferable between employers.
- **IV Competency Pilot:** An additional IV competency framework, funded by the RCN Foundation, is being piloted in London care homes in partnership with NHS colleagues and universities. The pilot will assess both clinical outcomes and the impact of familiar nurses providing care on resident wellbeing.

- **Carer Competency and Leadership:** Discussion addressed the importance of carer competency, with the framework including leadership and education components for nurses to support their teams. Existing care certificates and frameworks were acknowledged, with ongoing work to align standards and clarify delegation responsibilities.
- **Career Pathways and Role Development:** Questions were raised about how new competencies fit into career pathways for healthcare assistants, nursing associates, and registered nurses. The group agreed to monitor the impact of the frameworks and consider their role in supporting career progression and workforce sustainability.

EXPRESS Study on Suicidality in Adult Social Care: Scarlett presented the EXPRESS Study, a national research collaboration investigating suicidality and 'tiredness of life' among older adults in social care:

- **Study Aims and Scope:** The EXPRESS Study, funded by the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) and led by academic partners, aims to generate evidence-based recommendations for suicide prevention among older adults in social care, including those in domestic and residential settings.
- **Research Methods and Collaboration:** The study involves mapping suicidality prevalence, reviewing existing policies, conducting qualitative research with service users and staff, and evaluating economic impacts. It is a collaborative project with input from people with lived experience and national organisations.
- **Inclusion of Learning Disabilities:** Jillian Pawlyn enquired about the inclusion of people with learning disabilities, with Scarlett confirming that the survey will include this group and that specialist support and advocacy groups are being engaged to ensure appropriate participation.
- **Provider Engagement and Next Steps:** Providers will be surveyed about their policies and practices, with communication coordinated through Care England and other networks. Interested providers are encouraged to contact Scarlett to participate in the study and receive updates.

Global Majority Network Introduction and Plans: Sara and Walter introduced themselves as Co-Chairs of the Global Majority Network, outlining plans to provide peer support, leadership development, and advocacy for Black and Asian nurses, nursing associates, and care workers in social care, and gathering insights to inform policy and practice, with future communications and opportunities for involvement. The network is finalising its terms of reference and will share information on how to join.

Research Delivery Network Residential Lead Recruitment: Claire raised the need for support in recruiting a residential setting lead for the research delivery network. Claire explained the difficulty in filling the residential lead post due to NHS-focused language in recruitment materials and sought assistance in making the role more accessible to social care professionals. Pat suggested sharing information through sector networks and offered to discuss further offline and help disseminate information and connect with relevant contacts.

Meeting Reflections, Events, and Any Other Business: Pat and Scarlett summarised key meeting takeaways:

- **Key Reflections and Priorities:** Pat highlighted the importance of developing a clear nursing workforce pathway, expanding learning opportunities, and leading innovation in social care. Attendees were invited to share further reflections for inclusion in meeting notes.

- **Upcoming Events and Recognition:** The group was reminded about ongoing CNO Awards nominations (details available in the action point log), the upcoming [Care Show Birmingham](#), and the Nursing Times Leaders event. Completion of the [Council Member Registration form](#) was also encouraged.
 - **Brighton Pride Participation:** Scarlett reported on the sector's involvement in [Brighton Pride](#), noting strong representation from social care staff and service users and encouraging future participation.
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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

PhD, MSc, BSc(hons) QN, DN, RGN

Researcher in Nursing

School of Health and Society

MS354 Mary Seacole Building

University of Salford

Global Majority Nursing Network

Next forum: Tuesday 8 September | 10:00 – 11:30 | Online

Are you registered nurse or nursing associate from a diverse background?

Join our new Global Majority Nursing network for the Black and Asian nursing workforce. This network aims to provide you with a place to share insight and experiences, embrace collaborative working and access personal development and leadership opportunities.

You'll have the opportunity to:

- take part in breakout group discussions to network and share experiences
- explore opportunities to access leadership development
- adapt health resource for social care nursing
- access training on dealing with difficult situations
- recognise and value each other by nominating colleagues for the Chief Nursing Officer Awards
- attend in person network session which will include celebrating global majority registered nurses and nursing associates.

If you're interested in joining, please complete the expression of interest form.

Upcoming forums for 2026/27:

Tuesday 8 September | 10:00 – 11:30 | Online

Wednesday 4 November | 10:00 – 11:30 | Online

Meet the co-chairs of our nursing forums and networks

We've appointed Co-Chairs to our forums and networks to help strengthen collaboration, leadership and professional development across adult social care nursing.

<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Regulated-professions/Nursing/Join-the-nursing-community.aspx#Forums>

<https://assets-gbr.mkt.dynamics.com/d43a2d77-48d9-411c-97cc-461eaaf4b5bf/digitalassets/standaloneforms/27c00ee9-6a1c-f111-8342-7ced8db7644d>

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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.