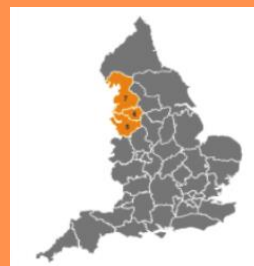




NORTHWEST Social Care Nursing
Advisory Council (SCNAC)
Virtual Quarterly Meeting 09
Wednesday 12th August 2026,
09:30-11:00



<u>Attending:</u>		
Karen Davies	-	Co-Chair of NW SCNAC
Michelle Howarth	-	Outgoing Co-Chair of NW SCNAC & Professor in Health & Social Care, Edge Hill University
Michelle Tennant	-	Incoming Co-Chair of NW SCNAC & Clinical Governance Lead, Home Instead
Alison Walsh	-	Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Student and Student on the BN Mental Health Nursing at the University of Chester, Wheeler Campus
Barbara Johnson	-	Director of Nursing, Risedale Estates
Craig Priestley	-	Registered Manager, Gorsey Clough Nursing Home
Janette Dunkerley	-	Health & Care Director, Regional Research Delivery Network (RRDN) Northwest Health and Care (NMAHP), NIHR NW
Ellen Wood	-	Teaching & Learning Fellow in Adult Nursing, University of Salford
Jean Hayles	-	Assistant Director of Nursing & Midwifery, People & Culture Directorate, NHS England Northwest – taking over from Nicola Morell-Scott
Jodie Roberts	-	Presenting on Developing Social Care Placements from Edgehill University.
Jonathan Murray-Seddon	-	Attending on behalf of Cheshire and Merseyside
Lizzy Hutton	-	Regional Senior Nurse, Northwest, HC One. Attending on behalf of Sue Noon
Gemma Maher	-	Attending on behalf of Jo Finnerty
Melanie Stephens	-	Associate Professor in Adult Nursing, University of Salford and NIHR RRDN Northwest Residential Lead
Sana Din	-	Employer Link Service Advisor for Independent Health & Social Care, NW & IoM, NMC
Sonia Pritchard	-	EA for the Outstanding Society and SCNACs Administrator

<u>Apologies:</u>		
Bridget Lees	-	North West Regional CNO
Lisa Ellis	-	Attending on behalf of Cheshire and Merseyside!
Emma Orton	-	Assistant Director of Quality and Nursing, NWAS
Jo Finnerty	-	Assistant Programme Director (Workforce) Adult Social Care Transformation, NHS GM Integrated Care. Gemma Maher attending on Jo's behalf
Sue Noon	-	Social Care and PIVO Workforce Development Manager, NHS England. Lizzy Hutton attending on Sue's behalf
Pauline Bradshaw	-	Deputy Director of Nursing (Clinical Quality) North West, NHSE
Lydia Vallance-Prentice	-	Regional Programme Lead UCR, Ageing Well / Care Sector Lead – UCE & ROC, NHSE NW

Megan Allan	-	Assistant MD, Head of Clinical and RN, Community Integrated Care (CIC)
Peter Weller	-	Key Greater Manchester Lead has attended on behalf of Mandy Philbin
Adele Thornburn	-	Senior Care Sector Clinical Lead, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB
Sarah Kennedy	-	Joint Care Sector Clinical Fellow - Wroughtington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust

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

Date of Future Meetings:

- Thursday 12th November 2026, 09:30-11:00
- Thursday 11th February 2027, 09:30-11:00

Summary Notes:

Leadership Updates and Succession Planning: Karen and Michelle Howarth informed the council of updates in the region:

- **Chief Nursing Officer Changes:** Karen announced that Bridget Lees has taken over as the interim Regional Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), succeeding James McLean, and that the council looks forward to welcoming her or her team at the next meeting in November. The group also acknowledged the retirement of Deborah Sturdy and her incredible contributions to adult social care nursing.
- **Succession Planning for SCNAC Co-Chairs:** Karen provided an update on the council's ongoing succession planning and was pleased to introduce a familiar face, Michelle Tennant, who is already a valued member of the council and will be taking over from Michelle Howarth as Northwest Co-Chair from September. Michelle Howarth will remain an active member of the council, ensuring that her expertise, experience, and valuable knowledge continue to be available to support and grow the council. Any council members who may be interested in taking on one of the Co-Chair roles in the future are encouraged to express their interest to Admin.SCNAC@theoutstandingsociety.co.uk.

Funding and Opportunities for Social Care Nursing: The allocation of the RN grant was discussed:

- **RN Grant Allocation:** Jean confirmed that some social care organisations in the Northwest received the £17,000 RN grant, with applications scored blind to ensure fairness, and noted that some NHS trust applications were rejected due to quality concerns.
- **Bid Writing Support:** Jean acknowledged the challenges faced by applicants in the bid writing process and shared plans for a webinar to provide feedback and guidance, aiming to improve the quality of future applications and increase the proportion of non-NHS recipients.
- **Future Funding Plans:** Jean stated that the funding initiative aims to support over 2,000 additional registered nurse degree apprenticeships over three years, with further tranches of funding expected and a commitment to share information with the council as it becomes available.

Research and Placement Development Initiatives: Updates were provided on research activities:

- **NHS Social Care Nursing Internships:** Melanie reported the completion of the second tranche of NHS adult social care nursing internship applications, with the Northwest region having the highest number of applicants, and noted that nearly all interns completed the programme, with ongoing evaluation and a completion event scheduled.
- **CARE Framework and Delphi Study:** Melanie described the ongoing Delphi study to develop adult social care nursing placement standards, inviting participation from NMC registered nurses, nursing associates, and registered managers, and explained the process for gathering and refining consensus on the standards. Presentation attached to the sending email with more details included under 'Additional Information' below.

- **Edge Hill University Placement Strategy:** Jodie detailed Edge Hill University's approach to developing social care placements, including mapping against Skills for Care checklists, embedding social care in the curriculum, supporting providers through training and resources, and ensuring every nursing student has a social care placement.
- **Barriers and Successes in Placement Expansion:** Jodie and others discussed successes such as strong leadership support and universal social care placements, as well as barriers including academic staff perceptions, provider infrastructure limitations, and tariff funding challenges, with suggestions to share best practices across the region.

Task and Finish Groups and Work Plan Progress: Michelle Howarth and Michelle Tennant updated the council on the progress of task and finish groups:

- **Student Readiness Initiatives:** Michelle Howarth summarised ongoing work to prepare organisations for student placements, referencing related research and the absence of a dedicated task and finish group due to existing activities led by members such as Sarah Kennedy.
- **Reducing Avoidable Hospital Admissions:** The council discussed the complexity of reducing avoidable hospital admissions, with a task and finish group developing an action plan to map current activities, identify strengths, and produce guidance or a roadmap for the region.
- **Engagement and Representation:** Michelle Tennant highlighted the need for greater representation from domiciliary care and encouraged members to join the task and finish group, with plans to share notes and action points to prompt wider involvement.

Development and Implementation of Dementia-Informed Post-Falls Pathway: Craig Priestley presented the newly developed post-falls clinical assessment and management pathway for people with dementia (pdf document attached to sending email):

- **Rationale for New Pathway:** Craig explained that the new pathway was developed in response to incidents and learning from Prevent Future Death reports, aiming to provide a dementia-informed, risk-based approach to post-fall assessment and reduce unnecessary hospital admissions.
- **Pathway Structure and Features:** The pathway includes detailed guidance, a colour-coded escalation system (green, amber, red), dementia-specific assessment considerations, and a dynamic risk assessment for moving residents, with supporting e-learning modules for staff.
- **Assessment and Monitoring Tools:** The tool incorporates baseline cognition assessments, neurological observations tailored for dementia, repeated fracture assessments, body mapping, and continuous monitoring over 24–48 hours, with clear documentation and escalation protocols.
- **Implementation and Feedback:** Craig reported positive feedback from registered nurses and the wider community, noting that the tool is comprehensive yet practical, and offered to share the document with other care homes for wider adoption.

Membership Engagement and Diversity: Karen and Michelle Howarth discussed the importance of increasing diversity and representation within the council:

- **Expanding Membership:** The council identified a need to broaden its membership to better represent the full spectrum of adult social care, nursing, and associated professionals, and invited suggestions for new members who could add value to the group.
- **Involving Service Users:** Michelle Howarth suggested engaging individuals with lived experience of social care, including younger and older people, to enhance the council's perspective and ensure its work reflects the needs of those receiving care.

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

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](#)

[\(https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/news-and-events/Events/October/Nurse-prescribing-in-adult-social-care.aspx\)](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.