



Nursing news

January 2024

Welcome to Nursing News

The aim of this newsletter is to provide insight into some of the nursing related activities that Skills for Care is both involved in and aware of, across the country. With 34,000 registered nurses working in social care and the welcome addition of the nursing associate to the workforce, we aim to highlight national and local priorities that have an impact on nursing within social care. We want to focus on, support and promote, the role of nursing within the social care sector.



Lucy Gillespie, National Professional Lead for Nursing at Skills for Care

2023 was a busy year for social care nursing and we are pleased to share this blog from our Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care focussing on the achievements for last year and looking forward to 2024.

Reflections on 2023 and the year to come

It's hard to believe another year has passed and there is still so much to do. For social care nursing, we have seen some real changes. We began some great projects in 2023 and we can now look forward with optimism as we work to embed and build on them further in 2024.

The [Royal College of Nursing Foundation](#)'s funding of the UK's first Professor of Social Care Nursing Salford University this year sets the tone for both education and research in our profession. The work they lead will be instrumental in challenging misconceptions, enhancing the perception of social care nursing, and adding to the evidence base.

The development of the first standards for social care nursing and SPQ entry to the NMC register will also open up new vistas of opportunity for our specialism, setting the baseline and defining the scope of our contribution. We will see more universities using these standards to inform their programmes and develop comprehensive and attractive curriculums.

Meanwhile, it's been a pleasure to work with the [National Institute of Health and Care](#)

[Research](#) (NIHCR) on the appointment of the first Fellow for Social Care Nursing. This has set a new standard for our research potential. Research careers have never looked so attractive and will be vital in our shared endeavour to shape, inform and disseminate evidence of our effective practice.

We held our popular [CRED Talks](#) series focusing on frontline clinical research - please join us for future sessions. It's a great way to get some CPD and see the brilliant work of researchers dedicated to improving our skill sets.

The second cohort of Global Majority nursing leaders are being recruited to the [Florence Nightingale Foundation programme for social care](#). The first cohort have "graduated" and it's been so rewarding to see them flourish and share their stories. Social care nursing is enriched by the diversity of their insights, skills and experiences.

The November event last year for Global Majority nurses held at Buckingham Palace really brought this home. Hosted by HRH King Charles, it provided a magnificent backdrop for colleagues who represent our profession so well. A small group of attendees met the King and new Secretary of State Victoria Atkins, alongside current Minister for Social Care, Helen Whatley.

As ever, our excellent colleagues at [Skills for Care](#) have been developing career resources for social care nurses, delivering training to colleagues at the NMC. This work has been essential to making sure colleagues making assessments and judgements on social care nurses undergoing Fitness to Practice panels apply criteria fairly. Regional events were held for social care nurses to come together to share their work and network, led by regional Skills for Care colleagues. Those important conversations suggest we need to do more of this.

We have maintained our collaborations with the [Queen's Nursing Institute](#) (QNI), the Care Home Nurses and [IPC \(Infection Prevention and Control\) networks](#). These are vital sources of information and forums for the sharing of best practice.

Working with the Foundation of Nursing Studies we have announced the [Resilience Based Clinical Supervision \(RBCS\) programme](#) which will be developed to meet needs for social care nurses. This will be implemented regionally this year.

The publication this year of the [Principles of Delegation](#), supporting delegated healthcare activities in care settings, has helped embed best practice in the sector. Pilot sites are now participating in testing and refining the principles so that more social care nurses can support clinical activities safely and consistently.

[QNI have again recognised nurses in social care with dedicated awards](#). Please apply, it is open to you all and is a prestigious award which helps shine a light on social care. We have given out both team and individual [Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Awards](#) and I ask that you nominate colleagues for 2024. Shouting about our work is vital and gives us a platform on which to celebrate and rise our profile within and beyond our profession. On this point, more King's Honours were bestowed on social care colleagues last year, so please keep nominating worthy colleagues for 2024. Let's have a bumper crop of nominations!

Last year we saw Care UK win the [Social Care Nursing Award at the Nursing Times Awards](#) for their innovative project on hearing loss and the mitigation of dementia symptoms. There are so many great initiatives in social care and we need to shout louder about all the great work.

The Social Care Nurse Advisory Councils (SCNACs) continue to develop and embed. The council Chairs in every ICS system meet regularly and give huge amounts of personal time to make these forums work. I really want to thank them and their organisations for supporting this. Having our voice at the NHS system table is critical. Please join in. [Find out who your Chair is and how to join your local SCNAC here.](#)

So, when I stop and reflect on 2023, I realise, with not a little satisfaction, we have laid some great foundations for a productive 2024.

Thank you all for your personal commitment to social care nursing and the wider care sector. What we do makes a huge difference and when we work collectively, we can achieve truly transformative things for each other and the people we support. You are all amazing.

Wishing you a healthy and happy 2024.

Skills for Care resources and support

Developing nursing placement opportunities in social care guidance

Social care nursing placements offer a wealth of opportunity with employers and practice learning partners playing a key role in supporting students to reach their full potential in developing their knowledge and skills within the learning environment.

With an ongoing demand for nurses and nursing associates within the sector there is a need to increase placement capacity. This guidance is aimed at employers and those considering hosting students to help them navigate the process of linking in with higher education institutions and highlights the benefits that there are for employers in hosting students.

It's been developed in collaboration with:

- higher education institutions nationally
- student nurses and nursing associates
- employers who are already hosting students
- regional integrated care boards
- Nursing and Midwifery Council and partner agencies who are committed to increasing placement capacity within social care.

[⇒ View the guidance](#)

We'll be discussing this guidance during our webinar on Tuesday 30 January 2024. If you have any questions or want to [find out more, please book on to the webinar.](#)

Other resources and opportunities for the nursing workforce

Resilience-based Clinical Supervision programme for nurses and nurse associates in social care

The Foundation of Nursing Studies are delighted to be launching a Resilience-based Clinical Supervision (RBCS) programme specifically for nurses and nurse associates in social care settings free of charge.

For further information please contact rbc.socialcare@fons.org for an informal discussion and to find out more about the programme.

⇒ [Download the RBCS Social Care Flyer](#)

⇒ [Read the press release](#)

⇒ [Visit the website](#)

Sustainability Leadership for Greener Health and Care

Delivered by the NHS Leadership Academy, the Sustainability Leadership for Greener Health and Care programme is designed to develop your leadership abilities, giving you the tools and knowledge to build a greener and more sustainable health system. Whether you're a new and aspiring leader who works across organisational boundaries or a leader who aspires to influence the net-zero agenda at board level - this programme has courses suited to you.

The programme is free for public sector health and care staff, and requires no prior experience or knowledge in sustainability.

⇒ [Find out more](#)

Residential care and nursing homes only: Further opportunity to join the national Vivaldi research pilot

Following a successful collaboration during the pandemic, Vivaldi Social Care is expanding in a new pilot commencing early 2024. More than 500 care home across England have joined the new pilot already, but there are more spaces available to get involved in this work to reduce infections and improve lives.

Due to the high interest in the project, there will be different phases, phase one will include providers who use Nourish or PCS, and we are working with other digital suppliers to include them later in 2024. Due to the workload for teams using paper-based systems and the security of the data, the project does not allow homes to participate who are paper-based only.

The [Outstanding Society website](#) includes detailed information about how to get involved in the project, including a practical animation helping you to explain it to the people you support, key information about how data will be used etc.

If you want to be at the forefront of new research, please e-mail: info@vivaldisocialcare.co.uk

QNI has launched a new infection prevention and control (IPC) scheme for nurses and their colleagues working in adult social care settings

The new IPC Champions Network builds on measures already in place to maintain and continuously improve standards across the care sector. The champions will share best practice through a series of virtual meetings, a newsletter and discussion forum. The network is free and open to all nurses and healthcare professionals working in Adult Social Care who are interested in infection prevention and control.

The next network meeting on **Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 14:00 - 16:00** and aims to develop and support champions within the role of infection control, thus providing excellence in care for patients. This meeting will feature sessions on 'Vivaldi Social Care'; a Harrogate IPC Workbook project in collaboration with Public Health Wales and a DHSC Adult Social Care update.

⇒ [Find out more and join the network](#)

⇒ [Book onto the next network meeting](#)

CRED TALK: Rebalancing health and social care experience in the pre-registration nursing curriculum

Monday 12 February 2024 | 15:00 – 16:00

Student nurse placements often focus on healthcare settings at the expense of social care experiences. In response, the University of Chester has developed an innovative indirect practice supervision/assessment model, which supports the development of social care-focused practice placements. This CRED talk will bring you up to date with the latest practices in social care education and provision and illustrate how support for students and the practice area has gained traction at higher education institutions across the UK.

⇒ [Find out more and book now](#)

QNI: Living well in older age in the community

Thursday 25 January | 13:00 – 14:00

The Queen's Nursing Institute Community Nursing Research Forum is a UK-wide Forum for nurses and midwives interested in community research and they're hosting an event on Living well in older age in the community research into nurse-led interventions.

⇒ [Find out more and book now](#)

Launching The Domestic Abuse Fund: supporting survivors of domestic abuse

The Burdett Trust for Nursing have partnered with Cavell to deliver support to nurses, midwives and nursing associates who have been affected by domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Fund is here to support survivors of domestic abuse who are experiencing financial crisis or hardship as a result of their experience of domestic abuse. They provide support in many ways including help with housing costs, items for your new home, food and daily living expenses, childcare costs and more.

⇒ [Find out more](#)

Events

Nursing recruitment and retention webinar series

30 January to 5 March 2024

Recruiting and retaining the nursing workforce within social care is more important than ever. We're running a series of webinars for those invested in the social care nursing workforce. Each webinar is designed to explore recruitment and retention best practice approaches, including career opportunities, developing learning environments and supporting early careers nurses.

[⇒ Book now and find out more](#)

Nursing associate peer network event

Wednesday 28 February 2024 | 13:00 - 14:30

Are you a nursing associate or a student nursing associate based in social care? We're looking for you to be part of our nursing associate peer network, you'll get the opportunity to connect with your peers, learn and share good practice, and develop skills for reflective discussion and leadership.

[⇒ Find out more and book now](#)

The Managers Conference - Nursing in social care workshop

Monday 11 March 2024 | 18:00 onwards

Tuesday 12 March 2024 | 09:00 – 16:30

Hosted by NCF and Skills for Care and in collaboration with ARC England, this workshop will explore the current opportunities for nursing in the sector and build a vision for our social care nurses and nursing associates for the future. We'll look at what's currently happening as well as upcoming opportunities for nurses and nursing associates which are attractive in terms of recruiting to and retaining the nursing workforce.

Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care and Lucy Gillespie, National Professional Lead and Registered Nurse at Skills for Care will be running this interactive session. There will be two discussion pieces:

- What do we need from the sector and the system to support the professional identity of our social care nursing workforce?
- How do we build a future narrative for nursing in our wide social care landscape?

[⇒ Find out more and book now](#)

Skills for Care want to hear from you

Guiding Principles and Resources - Evaluation survey

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has commissioned Skills for Care, working with other partners, to co-develop voluntary guiding principles to support person-centred, safe and effective delegation of healthcare activities to paid care workers and personal assistants. The [principles and supporting resources](#) were published in May.

We're interested in feedback on the guiding principles, what works and doesn't work in the

supporting resources. If you'd like to tell us about your experiences, please complete this short online survey. You can also send your suggestions and proposed improvements to: delegatedhealthcare@yorkconsulting.co.uk

⇒ [Take the survey](#)

Are you a mental health nurse/nursing associate? We need your help

Last year we held a roundtable event to discuss the work of learning disability nurses in the sector and the important role of nursing associates and we're pleased to feedback that the contribution of all those involved has helped shape some targeted work to support this important part of the nursing profession.

We plan to do the same this year with mental health nursing and would be interested in connecting with mental health nurses and nursing associates working in this type of setting. If you would like to be involved or learn more about this event please email socialcarenursing@skillsforcare.org.uk

If you're a provider looking to or currently developing the nursing associate role join our national forum

To support the development of the nursing associate role in social care we hold a national forum where providers can connect and share good practice. The group are currently working on:

- Business case development – what do people need to know if they're considering supporting student nursing associates (SNA) direct entry, SNA apprenticeships/qualified nursing associates.
- Grow our understanding of the data, where are SNA/NA in social care and the scope of their role.
- Supporting the workforce to understand the role – sharing examples of where the role is working well in the sector.
- Briefing for system stakeholders and a people friendly version for people who draw on care and support and their families and carers.
- Increase placements for nursing associates hosted in in social care.

We're looking for provider representatives to sit on the forum and help shape this work. If you would like to be involved, please email SocialCareNursing@skillsforcare.org.uk.

We're receiving lots of interest about where the nursing associate role is being developed outside of nursing care home settings. If you are a provider, nurse or student/qualified nursing associate involved in this and willing to share your experience please contact lucy.gillespie@skillsforcare.org.uk.

Awards

The Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Awards

These awards have been a big part of our regional celebration events with Deborah Sturdy the Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care. Visit the website to view the qualifying criteria and you can nominate someone or a team for the:

- team award
- silver award
- gold award.

[⇒ Find out more](#)

Reminders

We Are Social Care Nursing newsletter – Sign up

We Are Social Care Nursing newsletters main focus is to share and celebrate the exceptional work being done by nurses and nursing associates working in social care. The aim is to highlight and showcase what is going on in nursing, to give a voice to the nurses and nursing associates who are working in social care, and for colleagues to better understand the complexity of the roles.

[⇒ Find out more and sign up](#)

NMC review of the regulation of Advanced Practice - Webinar and survey

The NMC are currently carrying out a comprehensive review of advanced nursing and midwifery practice, to consider whether additional regulation is needed. Recently, they held a webinar to explain more, if you missed it you can view the recording on their website and contribute to their survey.

[⇒ Find out more](#)

Standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice qualifications (SPQ)

Universities are currently considering the content of the new Standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice qualifications (SPQ) which offers a development opportunity for social care nurses. It might be worth getting in touch with your local Higher Education Institution to see what they are planning to offer. Many are being driven by the demand in local communities so definitely worth getting in touch.

[⇒ Find out more](#)

Volunteer Responder Help for ASC Providers

The NHS and Care Volunteer Responders programme provides adult social care providers, including domiciliary and residential, with appropriately checked volunteers to support people in receipt of care.

Volunteers can support with friendly phone calls and by picking up and delivering prescriptions and shopping. Join one of the adult social care provider webinars to find out more about the current support available, the volunteer roles being developed and how to make a referral. You will also be able to ask any questions.

Sign up to the [Adult Social Care webinar](#) or contact your [regional relationship manager](#).

Alternatively make a referral to Volunteer Responders by calling 0808 196 3382 or visit the [NHS and Care Volunteer Responders website](#). Find out more [Royal Voluntary Service](#).