

#UKAFNPCONF25

WHERE TWO WORLDS COLLIDE

HCPs at the crossroads of law and clinical practice



UK Association of Forensic Nurses and Paramedics

THE TEAM



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Education Officer



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Steering Group



MHAIRI MACDONALD
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CARL DENTON
Chaplain



HABIR BIBI
Steering Group



BARRY NEVIN
Steering Group

ABOUT THE UK ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC NURSES AND PARAMEDICS

At the heart of forensic healthcare in the UK lies the UK Association of Forensic Nurses and Paramedics (UKAFNP). As a dynamic professional organisation steered by dedicated volunteers, UKAFNP is a beacon for all forensic healthcare practitioners. This includes but is not limited to nurses, paramedics, midwives, and doctors, who find themselves navigating the unique challenges of police custody or sexual assault examination settings. Forensic healthcare is an evolving and distinctive field, presenting its practitioners with both unique challenges and unparalleled rewards. Given that nurses or paramedics undertake most clinical work within this realm, their voices are pivotal. The UKAFNP not only recognises this but actively champions it. Our insights, experiences, and perspectives should not only be heard but should shape and drive the policies and directions of forensic healthcare.

OUR COMMITMENT

Awareness & Excellence:

We are unwavering in our pursuit to raise awareness of the forensic healthcare practitioner's role. We also strive to ensure that both complainants and suspects receive the highest standards of forensic and clinical care.

Representation:

We represent the collective voice of forensic healthcare practitioners nationally, ensuring that member concerns are understood, addressed, and translated into action.

Elevating Standards:

We are dedicated to propelling the profession to newer heights, setting benchmarks in forensic healthcare and forensic sampling.

JOIN THE UKAFNP COMMUNITY FOR ONLY £30 / YEAR

Members Receive:

- Discounted tickets to our conferences.
- Our quarterly newsletter includes insightful articles, the latest news, and engaging competitions.
- Exclusive access to the UKAFNP knowledge base – a treasure trove of information and expertise.
- Regular updates and communications straight from the desk of the President.

Become a part of this growing community and shape the future of forensic healthcare in the UK for only £30 annually.

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CONFERENCE ORGANISER

Dear Delegates.

Welcome to the UKAFNP Conference 2025 in Nottingham! It's hard to believe a whole year has passed since we gathered in Solihull. We're so grateful to everyone who joined us there—your enthusiasm and thoughtful feedback made it a truly memorable event. Thanks to the excellent hospitality provided by Village Hotels, we're delighted to be returning for our third conference with them.

Today, we're excited to explore a rich and thought-provoking programme focused on deepening our understanding of the coroner's role, medico-legal responsibilities, courtroom skills, and the prevention of future deaths. These topics are vital to our work as Health Care Professionals, and we hope they spark meaningful conversations and practical insights you can take back to your teams.

We're honoured to be joined by a fantastic line-up of speakers who bring expertise, and their contributions promise to be both relevant and inspiring, and we're confident you'll leave today with fresh perspectives and actionable ideas.

Throughout the day, you'll also have the opportunity to meet a variety of exhibitors—some familiar faces and some new ones. We're incredibly grateful for their support and encourage you to

visit their stands, learn more about their offerings, and collect signatures for your raffle draw forms. There are some brilliant prizes up for grabs, so don't miss out—the draw will take place at the end of the day!

Finally, we'd like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the nominees for this afternoon's Julie Tekin Award. Your dedication and impact are truly commendable. Thank you once again for being here and for your continued commitment to this important work. We hope you enjoy a rewarding and inspiring day.

Warm regards,

RACHEL
UKAFNP Conference Organiser



AGENDA

WHERE TWO WORLD'S COLLIDE

Friday 12th September 2025

8:30	Registration & Refreshments	
9:00	Welcome & President's Update	Jennie Smith
9:15	Education Update	Matthew Barker
9:30	Documentation and Interpretation of Injuries in a Forensic Context	Dr Ewa Wolska
10:30	Tea and Coffee Break	
11:00	Courtroom Skills and Giving Evidence	Simon Jelf
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	The Intersection of Healthcare and the Coroner	Yvonne Blake
14:30	The Role of the Expert Witness in Police Custody	Laurie Small
15:30	The Julie Tekin Award	
16:00	Conference Closes	



JENNIE SMITH

President & Conference Chair

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Jennie has been a Nurse since 1990 and her experience has been wide and varied. For the past seventeen years, Jennie has worked in forensic healthcare. When she started, she found it an emerging clinical area that she was and remains totally passionate about and a speciality which continues to challenge and fascinate her every day.

Jennie became involved with UKAFNP in 2008, subsequently becoming the National Conference Organiser and Vice President. Jennie was honoured to be elected as President in May 2013, and aims to continue the positive work that UKAFNP has done since inception.

UKAFNP is something Jennie most proud of for being able to improve quality and standards of care for our detainee population and hopefully improve outcomes as a result.



contact@ukafnp.org

MATTHEW BARKER

Education Officer

EDUCATION UPDATE

Matthew is an experienced clinical leader with 36 years in the public and private health and care sectors. He is an executive nurse with clinical, management, education and workforce development experience.

Previous roles include; Deputy Chief Nurse for an Acute Trust through Covid-19, Assistant Director for Transformation, National Deputy Chief Nurse for the Royal College of Nursing and Managing Consultant for General Electric Healthcare Partners. He is also an executive and performance coach who focusses on building self-awareness and unlocking potential.

Matthew trained at St Thomas' Hospital the Nightingale School, followed by his emergency nursing career to Senior Charge Nurse / Practitioner in London Teaching Hospitals. He has worked in a wide range of roles to support nursing, multi-professional teams' development and transformation projects.

Matthew is currently the Healthcare Director for the Metropolitan Police Service in London. Since joining in 2022 he has worked with the team to transform the approach to safer custody care, updating the police risk assessment, driving forward recruitment and professional development for healthcare practitioners. In addition to the healthcare portfolio, he is the Command lead for Strategy, Workforce, Culture, Diversity & Inclusion.

As UKAFNP Education Officer, Matthew is committed to maintaining professional standards, facilitating access to education and raising the profile of Forensic Healthcare Practitioners in all settings.

education@ukafnp.org



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DR EWA WOLSKA

Associate Medical Director,
Paediatric SOE, Expert Witness

DOCUMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF INJURIES IN A FORENSIC CONTEXT

Ewa is a Senior Sexual Offence Examiner and an international expert in injury interpretation. She holds a Diploma and a Doctorate in Forensic Medicine and Forensic Pathology, as well as a Certificate in Postgraduate Professional Development in Forensic Medicine and the Cardiff University Law School Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate. She is a Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine and the Royal Society of Medicine. Ewa also serves as an Expert Adviser at the National Injuries Database and is a Member of the Expert Witness Institute.

She is an author and co-author of over 20 studies published in medical journals and 10 chapters in the latest Polish Textbook of Forensic Medicine and Pathology. She has conducted more than 3500 autopsies and forensic medical examinations and has prepared numerous expert witness reports in high-profile criminal cases. After work, she enjoys colouring, outdoor activities, and travelling.



Dr Ewa Wolska
MD, PhD, FFLM, MEWI, FRSM

SIMON JELF

Barrister & Legal Trainer (Bond Solon)

COURTROOM SKILLS AND GIVING EVIDENCE

Simon Jelf is a practising barrister. He is ranked highly in all the leading directories for his work, over a near 30-year career at the bar.

Since 2000 he has worked as a trainer for Bond Solon, delivering courses to thousands of expert and professional witnesses, addressing their legal duties and responsibilities, as well as the skills they require to operate compliantly and effectively in the legal system. Simon has run courses for forensic practitioners of all levels of experience, ranging from students undertaking forensic degrees to senior practitioners. Simon is also the lead expert witness trainer for the British Medical Association.

Bond Solon is the UK's leading training provider for professional and expert witnesses. Over the past 30 years they have worked extensively with all areas of the forensic community.

Clients include: SARCs, NHS trusts, police forensic units, private sector forensic providers and universities. They offer a range of courses and professional qualifications for forensic practitioners and hold an annual Expert Witness Conference each November that is the leading industry event for the UK's expert witness community.



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YVONNE BLAKE

Norfolk Area Coroner

THE INTERSECTION OF HEALTHCARE & THE CORONOR

I won a scholarship to grammar school but grew up on a council estate, regularly getting targeted for wearing my “posh” uniform – complete with straw boater. After various jobs, I stumbled into work as an auxiliary nurse, loved it, and went on to train at Addenbrooke’s. Returning to Norfolk, I worked in orthopaedics and then A&E.

In 1989 I moved to Australia, joining the helicopter rescue and retrieval squad. I trained to rappel from helicopters, flew to serious RTCs with a doctor, treated snake and spider bites, crawled into grain silos to assist with amputations, and even boarded a tanker in rough seas by leaping for a ladder with a 40kg pack – convinced I’d end up as shark bait. The work was cutting-edge and unforgettable.

I returned to the UK in 1993, back to A&E, effectively working as a nurse practitioner before the title existed. When government targets made the job less appealing, I pursued a law degree at UEA while working full-time, then completed the Bar Vocational Course to become a barrister. I worked for AVMA and the NHS Litigation Service before cross-qualifying as a Solicitor Advocate.

I spent seven years as a defence solicitor and duty solicitor, handling countless late-night police station visits. I kept my nursing registration by working weekends in custody healthcare. A chance conversation with the Coroner for Great Yarmouth led to an unpaid role as Assistant Coroner, later Deputy Coroner for Suffolk and part of Essex. I juggled this with my legal work until 2015, when I became Area Coroner for Norfolk. Appointed by the Lord Chancellor, I hear hundreds of inquests each year – from RTCs, suicides, boating and workplace deaths, to prison deaths and industrial disease. It’s demanding, often far from 9–5, but endlessly fascinating. My particular interests include disaster victim identification, health and safety deaths, and – another story entirely – the psychology of serial killers.



LAURIE SMALL

Custody HCP, Liability Expert Witness & Lecturer

THE ROLE OF THE EXPERT WITNESS IN POLICE CUSTODY

Laurie has built on her 14 years Emergency Department and 3 years acute Oncology nursing experience whilst working in Police Custody for the Metropolitan Police Service. In 2021, she trained as a Liability Nursing Expert Witness and has taken Counsel instructions for ED-based civil cases, producing reports and witness testimony.

Laurie has shared her knowledge and experiences of being an expert witness within the custody healthcare practitioner profession; presented at the Step up to Expert Witness course at MPS and published an article in February this year about the role of the expert witness in police custody.

In September 2025, she embarks on a new career challenge in the world of education as an FE lecturer in health and social care, whilst maintaining clinical hours in Police Custody.



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THE JULIE TEKIN AWARD 2025

Nominations

Total Healthcare for Durham Constabulary

Durham Police's Operation Nightingale, launched in 2023, has been praised by HMICFRS for improving charge rates and victim support in domestic abuse cases. The initiative streamlines medical evidence gathering by enabling forensic practitioners to assess victims in safe locations, rather than hospitals. Examinations include body mapping, photography, and witness statements, producing high-quality evidence for CPS charging decisions.

National Safeguarding Leads Mitie Care and Custody Police Services

Mandy Smail and Mandy McDonough, National Safeguarding Leads at Mitie Care & Custody Police Services, are nominated for their leadership of the Safeguarding Quality Improvement Project. Their work has delivered sector-leading achievements, including: adopting the NHS England Safeguarding Assurance and Accountability Framework, access the Child Protection Information Sharing system via SystmOne, and implement bespoke safeguarding referral forms. Their efforts ensure compliance, improve auditing, and provide invaluable support to HCPs during case reviews.

SARCS Highland

The Highland SARCS Team has set a benchmark in trauma-informed, survivor-centred care by embedding Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland (RASASH) from the outset. Their innovations include a streamlined referral pathway reducing re-traumatisation, strong collaboration with RASASH to enhance support and training, and a proactive commitment to inclusivity through the LGBT Charter. The result is a safe, welcoming, and accessible service that prioritises dignity, comfort, and recovery for all survivors.

Humberside Police Custody

An audit identified that patients returning from A&E to police custody often lacked safe handover care plans, with A&E staff unaware of the limitations in custody. A focus group developed a teaching package for A&E staff on custody healthcare, alongside a standardised handover sheet to ensure continuity of care. Despite initial challenges, the process is now embedded across LCH custody suites in Yorkshire and the Humber, improving safety and consistency for detainees.

Eoin Bradley - Project Sagamore Met Det Lead

Eoin Bradley has been instrumental in developing the University of Greenwich's new PGCert in Advanced Forensic Practice, bringing innovation, expertise, and collaboration that earned multiple commendations at validation. His leadership has directly improved education for healthcare professionals and patient care, including initiatives such as a pioneering GHB Patient Group Direction trial.

Samantha Fenoulhet - Forensic Clinical Lead

Sam has led the development and implementation of a unique training and competency framework across SARCS, ensuring staff are trained and assessed in the latest techniques with proven outcomes. By focusing on patient experience and supporting regional teams directly, Sam has enhanced service quality and provided greater assurance for patients considering reporting.

Alexander Gore - Clinical Manager

As Clinical Manager in North Yorkshire Custody, Alex identified risks when detainees were taken to custody before being sent to A&E. He responded by delivering training to police on when direct hospital admission is required, now embedded in induction. He also created a 'Red Flags' quick reference guide, adopted by North Yorkshire Police, enabling officers to recognise emergency clinical situations and make safer, faster decisions. This innovation has improved detainee safety, reduced delays to treatment, and enhanced police decision-making.

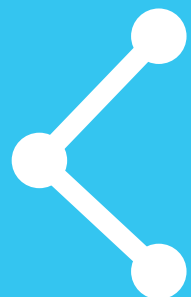
GET INVOLVED WITH THE EDUCATION FORUM



The education forum of the UK Association of Forensic Nurses and Paramedics is open to all interested in the education and training of forensic healthcare practitioners across the UK. The forum is open to all interested and not solely members of the organisation. The forum is chaired by Matthew Barker (Education Officer)

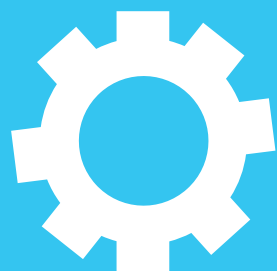
ADVANCED STANDARDS IN EDUCATION & TRAINING

The ASET is awarded in conjunction with
several university postgraduate courses



KNOWLEDGE

All courses meeting this standard are underpinned by the theoretical aspects of forensic practice and include the completion of a UKAFNP approved competency document in either custody or sexual assault.



SKILLS

Clinical aspects of the forensic healthcare practitioner role, such as first contact, initial assessment, collection and storage of forensic samples, ongoing management and psychological care.



ATTITUDE

Successful students will be assessed on their professional conduct, including providing written and oral evidence for court. In addition to leadership, teaching and supervision.

For more information contact
education@ukafnp.org



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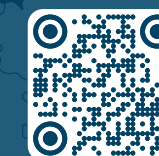
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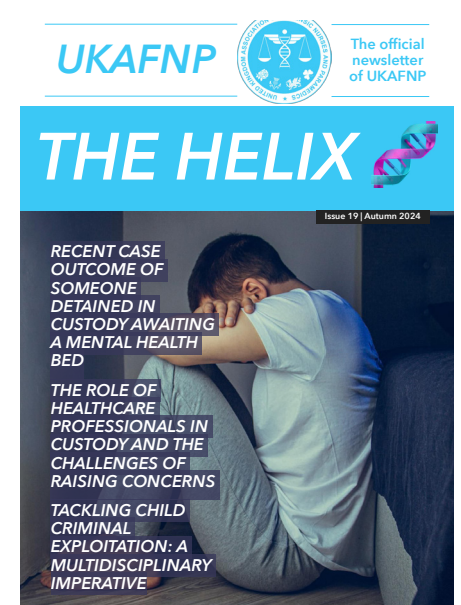
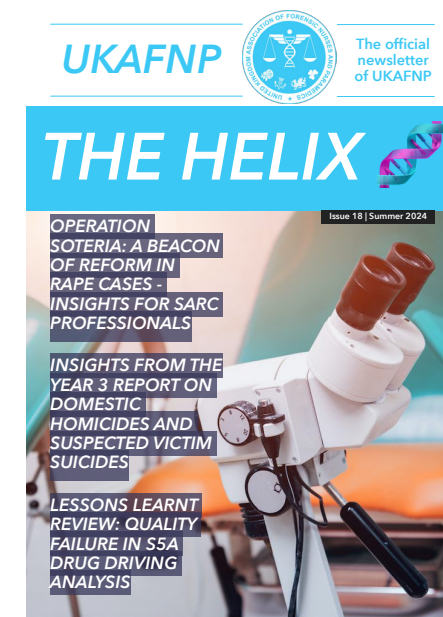
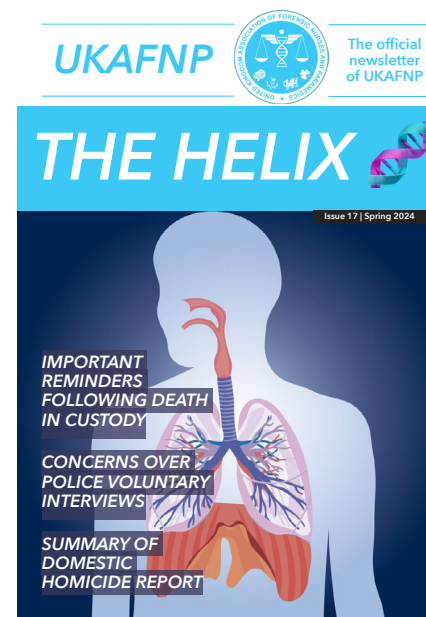


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We would really appreciate
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