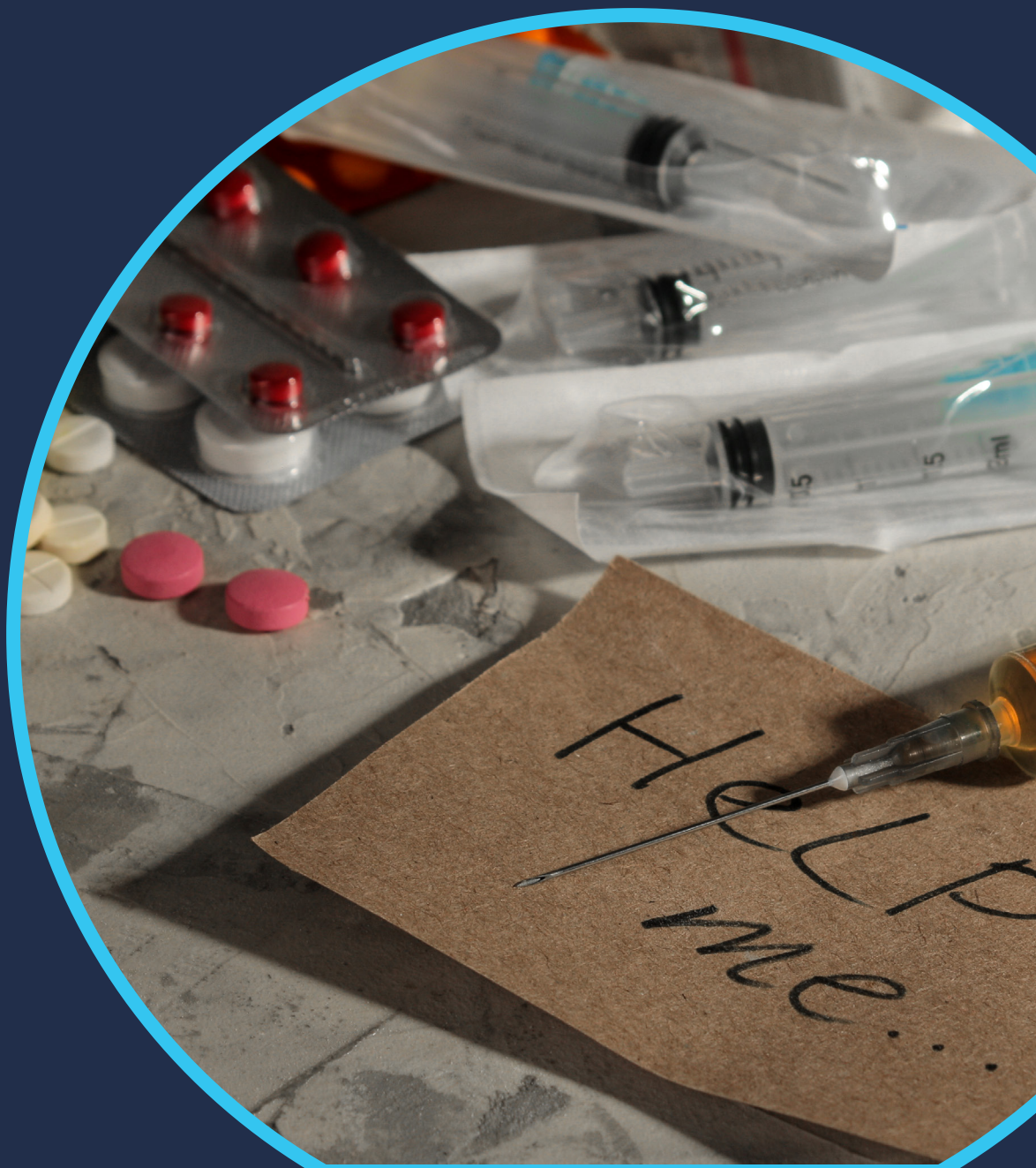
SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND VULNERABILITY

Advancing Forensic Healthcare in Custody and SARC

UKAFNP



#UKAFNPCONF26

UK Association of Forensic Nurses and Paramedics

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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.

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.

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.

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CONFERENCE ORGANISER

Dear Delegates.

Welcome to the UKAFNP Conference 2026! We are excited to welcome you to Nottinghamshire at the Eastwood Hall conference centre, a wonderful new location for us this year.

It is incredible to look back at our journey since we gathered for the UKAFNP Conference 2025 in Nottingham. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us last year. Your passion, energy, and feedback made it an unforgettable event.

Today, we are thrilled to present a vital and highly relevant programme. Our focus this year is on "Substance Misuse and Vulnerabilities; Advancing Custody Healthcare in Custody and Sarc." These topics are essential to our ongoing work as Forensic Nurses and Paramedics. We hope today's sessions spark meaningful discussions, offer fresh perspectives, and give you practical tools to take back to your clinical teams.

We are privileged to host an outstanding line-up of expert speakers. Their knowledge and insights promise to keep you informed, engaged, and inspired throughout the day.

Alongside our presentations, you will have plenty of opportunities to network. Please take some time to connect with our fantastic exhibitors. You can visit their stands to explore new resources, learn about their services, and collect signatures for your raffle draw forms.

Make sure to hand your forms in, as some excellent prizes will be drawn at the end of the day!

Finally, we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the nominees for this afternoon's Julie Tekin Award. Your dedication and outstanding impact in custody healthcare and SARC environments are truly commendable.

Thank you once again for your attendance and your continued commitment to this essential field of healthcare. We hope you have a highly rewarding, inspiring, and enjoyable day.

Warm regards,

RACHEL
UKAFNP Conference Organiser



AGENDA

SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND VULNERABILITY

Friday 11th September 2026

8:30	Registration & Refreshments	
9:00	Welcome & President's Update	*Jennie Smith*
9:15	Patron's Message	*Baroness Gabrielle Bertin*
9:30	Education Update	*Matthew Barker*
9:45	Lived Experience Keynote	*Paul Hannaford*
10:45	Tea and Coffee Break	
11:15	Expert Speaker Session	*Professor Murray*
12:15	Lunch	
13:15	Expert Speaker Session	*Mike Linnell*
14:15	Lived Experience Session	*Thomas Delaney*
15:15	The Julie Tekin Award, raffle and closing remarks	
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

BARONESS GABRIELLE BERTIN

Patron

Gabby started her career at BNP Paribas as an equity trader, she then decided to swap finance for politics spending the next decade working for David Cameron both in Opposition and Government.

She was the Prime Minister's Press Secretary until 2014 and then became Downing Street's Director of External Relations.

In 2016 David Cameron made her a Life Peer. Her focus in the House of Lords is on domestic abuse, sexual violence, prison reform and disability inclusion.

She is Co-Chair of the APPG on Domestic Violence and currently sits on the Justice and Home Affairs Select Committee in the House of Lords.

She previously sat on the Children and Families Select Committee, the Communications Act Committee, the Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Domestic Abuse Bill and the Public Services Select Committee.

She also introduced the Stalking Protection Order Bill, giving police greater powers to help victims of stalking.

In 2023 the Conservative Government appointed Gabby as the Lead Reviewer of the Independent Pornography Review to evaluate the legislation, regulation and enforcement of pornography. The Review reported in February 2025 and Gabby is leading a Taskforce to monitor progress of implementation of the report's recommendations.



Gabby sits on the Board of the Normandy Memorial Trust, the Centre for Policy Research on Men and Boys and the Women of the Year Awards. She is also a former Trustee of KIDS (a charity for disabled children).

Gabby worked at BT as Head of Strategic Communications, and then as a senior adviser to the CEO and Executive Team from 2017 to 2021.

In 2021 she was voted Spectator's Peer of the Year for her campaigning to end violence against women and girls.

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

PAUL HANNAFORD

Lived Experience

My name is Paul Hannaford. I'm a recovering heroin and crack cocaine addict, a former gang member, and someone who spent much of my younger life caught in a cycle of crime, addiction and imprisonment. From the age of 13 through to 35, I was repeatedly in and out of prison, living a life that was destructive not only to myself, but also to the people around me.

Today, I'm proud to say that I have been clean and sober for 19 years.

For the past 15 years, I have dedicated my life to using my own experiences to educate and support others. During that time, I have spoken to more than one million young people aged between 8 and 18 in schools, colleges and universities across the country, sharing the realities of addiction, drugs, gangs, crime and the consequences that can come with the choices we make.

My work is based on lived experience. I speak openly and honestly about where my life took me, the damage addiction caused, the realities of prison and gang culture, and most importantly, how change is possible.

Alongside my work with young people, I also deliver talks and awareness sessions to head teachers, doctors, police officers and other professionals working within our communities. Much of this work, along with the impact it has had, is documented across my social media platforms.



I strongly believe that every child deserves access to honest, age-appropriate drugs awareness education. These issues exist in communities across the country, and avoiding difficult conversations does not make them disappear. By giving young people the knowledge, understanding and confidence to recognise risks and make informed decisions, we can help prevent them from making choices that could change the course of their lives.

My past is something I can never change, but I can use it to create something positive. If sharing my story helps even one young person make a different choice, seek support or understand the consequences of drugs and crime, then everything I have been through has a purpose.

PROFESSOR MURRAY

Expert Speaker Session

Robin Murray is Professor of Psychiatric Research at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience. He was one of the first to suggest that schizophrenia was in part a neurodevelopmental disorder, and he and his colleagues have contributed to the understanding that environmental factors such as obstetric events, drug abuse and social adversity dysregulate striatal dopamine and thus increase the risk of psychosis. He also cares for people with psychosis at the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust. He has written over 1,000 articles, not all of them boring!



Robin is the most frequently cited psychosis researcher outside the USA, has supervised 83 PhDs and 13 MD Theses, and 52 of his students have become full professors. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2010 and received a knighthood in 2011.

Heavy cannabis use, particularly during teen-age years, is associated with increased risk of subsequent psychosis. Our work shows a) a dose-response relationship between the level of use and the risk of later psychosis; b) continued use by those with established psychosis is associated with a worse outcome, c) administration of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) induces transient psychosis in normal subjects, d) genetic loading for schizophrenia and cannabis use have independent effects on risk of psychosis combining in some people to push the individual into psychosis. It is becoming clear from a number of countries and US States that increased use of high potency cannabis, often following legal changes, is associated with an increase in new cases of psychosis. There has been much less research into cannabis and violence. Contrary to the view from Hippie days that cannabis is associated with love rather than aggression or war, there have been increasing reports from UK and USA of people who heavily use cannabis carrying out violent, often bizarre, homicides. We have therefore carried out a meta-analysis which showed that use of cannabis was associated violent acts both in the general population and among psychiatric patients; this is often in the context of paranoia.

Traditional services have resulted in those with cannabis-induced psychosis falling between psychosis and addiction services with the former treating the psychosis but not the dependence, and the latter usually rejecting the patients because of their psychosis. We have established a cannabis and psychosis clinic dedicated to their treatment. In addition to treatment of psychosis it provides individual therapy (CBT/ motivational approaches) as well as weekly on-line group, and where appropriate Sativex to cover cannabis withdrawal. The results have been surprisingly good.

MIKE LINNELL

Expert Speaker Session

Michael Linnell did his first degree in fine art and his MSc in Health Education. He once earned a living by diving off the top of a Transit van into a bucket as part of a comedy acrobatic act.



Mike was the former Director of Communications for a national drugs charity before establishing his own business in 2014.

In over 40 years of working in the drugs field he has done everything ranging from: working on needle exchanges when they were still illegal in the U.K; providing welfare and drug testing at clubs and festivals; to running drug research projects in Siberia, Russia; although his main job involved researching with the target audiences of people who use drugs, writing, illustrating and designing hundreds of harm reduction booklets, posters and animated films.

In 2016 he wrote the national guidelines for OHID on drug early warning systems (EWS) based on a pilot he had developed in Salford. He currently manages the EWS's for Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria and Bradford.

He also co-ordinates UK DrugWatch, an online group for professionals interested in new, emergent and adulterated street drugs and works as a researcher on the annual drug trends study for Greater Manchester.

THOMAS DELANEY

Lived Experience

Thomas Delaney is a community development practitioner, researcher, and public speaker whose work explores the intersection of trauma, substance use, stigma, and recovery. Drawing on both professional and lived experience, Thomás has delivered talks and workshops across educational, community, and professional settings throughout the UK, reaching audiences from young people and practitioners to policymakers and academics.

Thomás has also garnered millions of views through collaborations with major media outlets, including LADbible, BBC, and The Guardian, helping to bring wider public attention to conversations about addiction, recovery, trauma, and social inequality.

A First-Class Honours graduate in Community Development from the University of Glasgow, Thomás' research focuses on how media narratives, stigma, and public discourse shape societal perceptions of substance use and recovery. His work challenges deficit-based and dehumanising approaches, advocating instead for trauma-informed, compassionate, and evidence-informed responses grounded in dignity, connection, and community.



He is also the founder of YouthWISE ("Empowering Youth, Inspiring Change"), a trauma-informed social enterprise developing lived-experience-led drug education and wellbeing workshops for young people, schools, and communities.

Through his speaking, Thomas aims to bridge the gap between research, practice, and reality, encouraging professionals to look beyond labels and better understand the broader social, psychological, and structural factors that shape vulnerability, risk, and recovery.

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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 assult.

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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- Using insight, innovation and technology to improve services

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