

Autumn Conference 2025

Marriott Hotel, Cardiff

Conference Programme

All sessions take place in the Cardiff Suite unless otherwise stated.

Monday 13 October 2025

19.00 Drinks Reception

Bute Bar

19.30 Dinner

Guest Speaker: Dr Ian Mathieson, Director of Education Strategy and Transformation, Health Education and Improvement Wales

Tuesday 14 October 2025

08.45 Registration and exhibitors

Bute Bar

09.00 Welcome

Ed Hughes, Chief Executive, Council of Deans of Health

Professor Alison Machin, Chair, Council of Deans of Health

09.15 Council update

James Hallwood, Head of Policy and External Affairs, Council of Deans of Health

09.45 In conversation with Paul Rees MBE

Paul Rees MBE, Chief Executive, Nursing and Midwifery Council

Facilitated by Professor Alison Machin, Chair, Council of Deans of Health

10.35 Refreshments and exhibitors

Bute Bar

11.00 Challenges in higher education: are we leading in crisis?

Professor Sir Steve West CBE, Vice-Chancellor, President, and CEO, University of the West of England, Bristol

Facilitated by Ed Hughes, Chief Executive, Council of Deans of Health

12.00 Student Leadership: lessons and moving forward

Beryl Mansel, Director, Student Leadership Academy; Associate Professor, Swansea University

Facilitated by Professor Marc Griffiths, Vice-Chair, Council of Deans of Health

12.45 Lunch and exhibitors

Bute Bar

13.35 Transformational leadership in nursing and healthcare education

Sue Tranka, Chief Nursing Officer, Welsh Government

Facilitated by Dr Mohammed Jakhara, Trustee, Council of Deans of Health

14.30 Refreshments and exhibitors

Bute Bar

14.50 NHS 10-year health plan: what next for the sector?

- Jane Hadfield, National Lead, Talent for Care and NHS Apprenticeships, Workforce, Training and Education, NHS England
- Beverley Harden MBE, Deputy Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, NHS England
- Dr Ian Mathieson, Director of Education Strategy and Transformation, Health Education and Improvement Wales

Facilitated by James Hallwood, Head of Policy and External Affairs, Council of Deans of Health

16.00 End of conference

Speaker Biographies

Dr Ian Mathieson

Director of Education Strategy and Transformation, Health Education and Improvement Wales

Ian is the first person to take on the role of Director of Education Strategy and Transformation ensuring HEIW is informing and leading the healthcare education agenda in Wales and across the UK. Ian has joined HEIW from the University of South Wales where he is Associate Dean Partnerships and Business Development (Health and Social Care). Having qualified as a podiatrist in 1995, Ian brings with him over 28 years of experience as a healthcare professional and academic.



Paul Rees MBE

Chief Executive and Registrar, Nursing and Midwifery Council

Paul Rees MBE will oversee the establishment of the NMC's culture and performance. Paul has a wealth of experience in improving organisational performance as a senior leader in healthcare. His experience in leading organisations through culture transformation is a crucial part of improving the NMC's fitness to practise processes, for the benefit of the public and the professionals on the register. Paul was awarded an MBE for services to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in 2022 and has won numerous other awards for his leadership, including the Memcom Louis Armstrong CEO Leadership Award for the membership sector.



Professor Sir Steve West CBE

Vice-Chancellor, President, and CEO, University of the West of England, Bristol

Steve West is a Board Member of Universities UK, Chair of Health Innovation West of England and Non- Executive Director for the Integrated Care Board for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG). He also served as President of Universities UK (UUK) from 2021-2023. Professor Sir West became Deputy Lieutenant for the county of Gloucestershire in 2012 and was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the New Year's Honours list 2017, for services to Higher Education. He was made an Honorary Member of the Faculty of Public Health in 2021. Professor Sir West was awarded a knighthood in the King's Birthday Honours List 2023 for his major contributions to education, health, and business, underpinned by a profound commitment to transforming lives.



Beryl Mansel

Associate Professor, Swansea University

Beryl Mansel is an Associate Professor in Mental Health Nursing at Swansea University whose career is defined by a passion for developing people and advancing healthcare leadership. A registered mental health nurse, Beryl leads the Mental Health Team at Swansea University, overseeing the BSc and MSc Mental Health Nursing programmes and mentoring colleagues to achieve teaching excellence. As the founder and Director of the Student Leadership Academy, Beryl has created an interprofessional initiative that inspires students to discover and apply their leadership potential. The Academy supports future healthcare professionals to lead with confidence, compassion, and resilience, with students publishing reflective blogs that showcase their growth and impact. Beryl also designed the Professional Advocate Programme, which equips nurses, midwives, and allied health professionals with restorative supervision, leadership, and quality improvement skills, grounded in the evidence-based A-EQUIP model. In addition, Beryl has published research on emotional intelligence and developed a framework to help mental health nursing students recall the Mental State Examination. Currently undertaking the ILM Level 7 in Executive Coaching and Mentoring, Beryl champions compassionate leadership as a powerful driver of personal development, team resilience, and improved healthcare outcomes.



Sue Tranka

Chief Nursing Officer for Wales; Nurse Director, NHS Wales

Sue Tranka is the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales and Nurse Director of NHS Wales as of 2021. She was formerly the Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for Patient Safety and Innovation at NHS England and Improvement. Sue has 33 years of varied experience in nursing and has spent the last 26 years working in the National Health Service. Sue trained as a midwife, registered general nurse, mental health nurse and community nurse. Sue has a strong interest in quality improvement, human factors and safety systems. As of April 2022, Sue holds the title of Honorary Visiting Professor at Cardiff University. In October 2020 and again in 2024, Sue was listed among the Health Service Journal's 50 most influential people in health from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background. Sue is a fellow of the Queen's Nursing Institute, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), at the Faculty Nursing & Midwifery since December 2024.



Jane Hadfield

National Lead, Talent for Care and NHS Apprenticeships, NHS England

Jane originally trained as a Registered Nurse in the 1980s, and has since worked in Workforce and Organisation Development for 25 years in both senior clinical and corporate leadership roles. Jane now holds a national role in the NHS, managing the introduction of the apprenticeship reforms, using her experience, garnered during her career, in leading, the implementation of new apprenticeship education pathways. The programme Jane leads is designed to move from development, and implementation, to a quality focussed, sustainable apprenticeship strategy for the NHS. Jane also sits on the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education Board. In 2023, Jane was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration (DBS), by The University of the West of England, in recognition of her contribution to widening access to education and advancing innovation and entrepreneurship in leadership.



Beverley Harden MBE

Deputy Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, NHS England

Beverley Harden is the Deputy Chief Allied Health Professions Officer for England, National Lead for multi-professional Advanced and Consultant Practice for NHS England's Workforce, Training and Education Directorate. Beverley was awarded an MBE in the King's New Years Honours list for services to healthcare and is a Fellow of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Since 2018 she has led work in her current role across England to enable employers to realise the full workforce potential of the 15 Allied Health Professions, secure and grow the future workforce and develop the skilled allied health support, assistant practitioner and technician workforce. Beverley also leads the national Multi-professional Advancing Practice programme, establishing the Centre for Advancing Practice to bring together clinical and education experts from across professions to develop educational and career pathways for enhanced, advanced and consultant level practice. This is enabling more highly skilled staff to pursue more inclusive clinical career opportunities as advanced and consultant practitioners. Outside of the NHS Beverley is a Board Trustee for Carers UK and, as a carer herself, is a passionate advocate for unpaid carers across the UK.



Skills for Care partnership

Skills for Care, in partnership with the Council of Deans of Health, has launched the first ever strategy for social care in practice learning and curriculum of nursing education programmes.

Adult social care is a vital and dynamic part of the health and care system, and, with every growing demand, we need to ensure that nursing graduates can see that social care is an exciting and important career option.

Purpose of strategy

The Social Care Nursing Placement Strategy aims to foster stronger connections between students, care providers, employers, the social care workforce, universities and colleges, to enhance and promote understanding and engagement with social care settings and provide sustainable high quality practice placement opportunities.

The strategy sets out the recommendations needed to ensure the future workforce has the knowledge and skills to support population health in England in the very near future as well as to meet the future direction of the 10-year plan for health.

**Stephen Kinnock MP,
Minister of State for Care,**
said about the strategy:

“I encourage you to consider the actions you can take to support this work, and how you can further contribute to developing the future workforce by creating learning experiences which enhance knowledge and skill, where social care nursing is rightly seen as a career of choice, opportunity and growth.”

Our partnership work with Skills for Care also involves supporting the implementation of the with our members and stakeholders, and the developing of the Social Care Students and Early Careers Network.

More information on our partnership work

www.councilofdeans.org.uk/partnerships/skills-for-care/

Unlocking Data Insight to Reduce Attrition

Smarter Decisions. Better Outcomes.



Nursing and healthcare education stands at a crossroads. High attrition, delayed completions, low recruitment, and acute workforce shortages are creating a national crisis. One in three nursing students leaves before graduation and in some schools, that rises to one in two. Behind every departure is a story of personal loss and institutional cost, up to £40,000 per student, with delays adding a further £6,000 in extended supervision. These aren't just numbers. They are a direct pipeline issue for the NHS and the wider health sector. But where there are challenges, there are also opportunities if we have the intelligence to act. At MyKnowledgeMap, we believe the answer lies in data. That's why we are launching the Data Insight Project and we're inviting your institution to be at the forefront.

Why Data Insight is Different

Over half of all UK nursing students complete their Practice Assessment Document using our MyProgress ePortfolio, and we support over 40 nursing schools. We believe this is now an opportunity to harness this unrivalled foundation to create the sector's first solution that turns data into actionable intelligence. The result: a shift from reactive problem-solving to proactive retention, efficiency, and better student outcomes.

What Data Insight Could Deliver

By unlocking and analysing rich data, Data Insight will help universities to:

- Spot early warning signs of disengagement.
- Monitor placement activity, assessments, and timesheets in real time.
- Uncover issues such as missed reflections, practice assessor allocation gaps, or irregular work patterns.
- Cut the manual effort of compliance and mandated reporting.
- Identify and share best practices from successful students.
- Get a historic view of data (trends showing those who failed to complete, retrieval placements, metrics on completion of placements, parts and programmes, and pinpoint attrition by year)

By combining the intelligence of data with the expertise, compassion, and commitment of educators, we can help build the picture needed to reduce attrition and secure better outcomes for students, universities, and the healthcare workforce. We also recognise that data alone is never the full picture. Student success is influenced by culture, support networks, wellbeing, and countless human factors. Data Insight does not replace these, it amplifies them.

Join Us

This project will be a step change in how institutions harness data to drive success, cutting attrition, reducing costly retrieval placements, and strengthening outcomes for students and the healthcare workforce. We would love for you to join the project! We would like permission to look at your AEI's data to help us find markers and patterns. Your data will be anonymised and under an ethics framework managed by Dr Siân Shaw Associate Professor of Digital Innovation in Nursing at Anglia Ruskin University. Once we have spotted patterns, we then want to understand what information YOU want to have to hand, so that we can be a part of the solution.

Whether you're a MyProgress customer or not, if you're interested in joining the project we would love to hear from you. Speak to our team at the Council of Deans Autumn Conference to discover how your AEI can be a part of the Data Insight project.

