

PPN NW Annual Conference 14th November 2024

Meet the Team:



Dr Gita E Bhutani - Co-Chair, NW PPN

Gita is a clinical psychologist who trained in Glasgow. Clinically, Gita has specialised in working with adults and older adults and currently works in a specialist Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Service in Lancashire. She recently contributed as a co-investigator on a NIHR RfPB funded research project on Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Psychosis with further research development underway.

Gita was a founding member of the Psychological Professions Network (PPN) which started in the North West in 2013. From 2018 – 2023, she undertook a range of projects and roles with Health Education England including National Psychological Professions Development Lead. She continues to co-chair the PPN in the North West. In the North West, Gita has been part of an innovative new roles project seeking to improve psychological professions workforce supply.



Liz Kell - Co-Chair, NW PPN

Liz is a qualified Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner, having completed her initial training as a Primary Care Graduate Mental Health Worker in 2004. Since this time Liz has worked in primary mental health services and NHS Talking Therapies (previously IAPT) services as a PWP, a supervisor, a PWP lead and a Clinical Service Manager of a PWP IAPT service, before moving to work in Higher Education Institutions as course leader for PWP training. Liz is currently Co-Director of the Low Intensity CBT Portfolio within Cedar at the University of Exeter.

Liz has been involved with the Psychological Professions Network in the North West since its launch in 2013, initially representing the PWP workforce, chairing the first PWP community of practice and Senior PWP network. She supported the development of Senior PWP networks in the North East and Yorkshire and Humber and supported a number of PWP North Conferences. She has been Co-Chair of the PPN North West since October 2021.



Elsbeth Ward - New Roles Leadership Fellow, NW PPN

Elsbeth is a registered Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (PWP), who has worked in NHS Talking Therapies (previously IAPT) for 15 years. During this time she has worked as a PWP, Senior PWP, Deputy PWP Clinical Lead and an operational Team Lead, with a keen interest in Supervision and Wellbeing of Staff, Safeguarding and the development of new roles in Services. Elspeth worked with Liz Kell on the Psychological Practitioners Community of Practice Kick Starter Event and now Co-Chairs the NW PPN Psychological Practitioners Community of Practice – representing PWPs. In this role, she is a reporting member for Psychological Practitioners to the NW PPN Workforce Council.

This New Roles Leadership Fellow post represents an opportunity to build on and develop understandings and opportunities for the new Psychological Practitioner roles. Both their clinical practice for the benefit of clients across the NHS system and also for Practitioners to grow and develop their careers.



Reb Aziz-Brook - Assistant Psychologist, NW PPN

Reb started her interest in psychology when she completed a Psychology degree at the University of Manchester, graduating in 2015. Following this she got on a graduate scheme at Chorley Council as a policy graduate and has spent the last 7 years working at the Council across Policy, Performance and Transformation and Change.

After getting therapy herself, Reb's interest in therapeutic work and psychological principles was reignited and she decided she wanted to have a career change. This took her to the Assistant Psychologist role within the PPN, where she has the opportunity to build on and develop understanding of Psychological Professions and how to make the PPN impactful for new Psychological Professionals.



Phil Gooden - Programme Lead, NW PPN

Phil started with the NHS as a Graduate Mental Health Worker in 2006 before gaining a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy qualification in 2010.

He has worked as Strategic Lead for Integrated Community Wellbeing under joint employment with Chorley Borough Council and as Associate Director of Operations over Community Physical Health alongside a lead role for Talking Therapies at Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust.

Prior to joining the network Phil spent two years as Head of Transformation leading a team of Programme, Project and Business Change Managers across a diverse Trustwide portfolio.



Anne Bellis – Health & Care Education Officer, NHSE

Anne has over 30 years of admin experience having qualified from the University of Chester with a degree in European Business Studies, and has worked in many sectors over her career, including travel and aviation, business services and national nonprofit organisations.

Anne joined the NHS almost 11 years ago, starting as an Executive Assistant at Manchester University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, where she worked for 8 years before moving over to NHSE almost 3 years ago.

Following an organisational structure to create the new NHSE in 2023/24, Anne started working with the NW PPN in April 2024, providing support to the team on various projects.