



Creative Health

## Prevention and Creative Health Roundtable

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2-4pm

<https://bit.ly/4i3RkV1>

### Agenda

#### Chair:

**Dr Simon Opher MP**, Chair of the APPG on Creative Health

#### Keynote speakers:

**Ashley Dalton MP**, Minister for Public Health

**Lord Kamall**, Shadow Minister for Health and Social Care, Vice-Chair of the APPG on Creative Health

**Professor Sir Michael Marmot**, Director, The UCL Institute of Health Equity

#### Roundtable Speakers:

##### *Prevention, communities and public health*

**Dr Justin Varney-Bennett**, Regional Director of Public Health, South West

**Cedric Whilby**, Chair of Southwark Culture, Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SCHWeP)

**Pippa Jones**, Director, Create Gloucestershire and **Naomi Draper**, Artistic Director, GL4 Festival

##### *Prevention and Inequalities*

**Professor Monique Lhussier**, Director, Centre for Health and Social Equity, Northumbria University

**David Tovey**, Co-Director, Arts and Homelessness International

**Rob Berkeley**, Co-Director, BlackOut

##### *Prevention and the NHS*

**Dr Layla McCay**, Director of Policy, NHS Confederation

**Yvonne Farquharson**, Founder and Managing Director, Breathe Arts Health Research and

**Professor Carmine Pariante**, Professor of Biological Psychiatry, King's College London

Building an NHS Fit for the Future is one of the key missions set out by the Labour Government. The consultation on the new 10-Year Health Plan builds on Lord Darzi's Independent Investigation of the NHS which highlighted the major challenges facing the NHS and proposed three shifts:

- Moving more care from hospitals to communities
- Embracing digital transformation and shifting from analogue to digital

- Shifting from treating sickness to preventing it

The purpose of this roundtable is to explore the focus on prevention and how creative health approaches and activities can support the shift from treating sickness to preventing it. Following this meeting, the National Centre for Creative Health and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Creative Health will produce a policy briefing on Prevention and Creative Health.

There will be an opportunity for the audience in the room to ask questions. The roundtable will also be recorded in Teams webinar mode with an online audience.

## Biographies of Speakers

### **Rob Berkeley**, Co-Director, [BlackOut](#)

Award-winning busybody and recovering academic, Dr Rob Berkeley leads development of [BlkOutUK.com](#), a community-owned media asset, collaborative leadership network, and care focused collective for and by Black queer men. He was director of the racial justice think-tank, Runnymede Trust (2009-14), before a stint in the BBC media strategy team, advising on audience accountability. He serves as a board member of Stanley Arts in South London, as Vice-Chair of The Baring Foundation, and as Chair of Doc Society. Rob was awarded an MBE in 2015 for services to equality.

### **Naomi Draper**, Artistic Director, GL4 Festival

Naomi Draper is the co-founder and Artistic Director at GL4, a community interest company in the heart of a social housing estate called Matson in Gloucester, GL4 bring national touring theatre into community spaces on a pay what you can basis with a craft strand that came out of the covid 19 lockdown and the need to support mental health needs. Naomi has lived on the Matson estate for over 20 years so has lived experience of the community GL4 represent. She is passionate about making change and opportunities for the residents of where she lives and works.

### **Yvonne Farquharson**, Founder and Managing Director, Breathe Arts Health Research

Yvonne Farquharson is a multi award-winning social entrepreneur who specialises in developing creative, research-led programmes to improve healthcare and transform lives. Yvonne is a previous winner of the Women in Social Enterprise Award and has been recognised on the WISE100 UK's top 100 most inspiring and influential women in social enterprise. Yvonne has been working in the arts and health sector for seventeen years and has gained international recognition for her work, frequently contributing to conferences globally. She has co-authored papers in peer-reviewed medical journals, delivered multiple TEDx talks and has worked closely with WHO to share best practice learning.

### **Pippa Jones**, Director, [Create Gloucestershire](#)

Pippa Jones is the founder and director of Create Gloucestershire, a network of over 2000 people from across Gloucestershire who explore ideas and share resources to encourage arts, culture and creativity to become "every day for everyone". Prior to this Pippa held roles in regeneration, housing and youth work in Bristol and the SW region, providing strategic consultancy and governance support to a wide range of organisations. Since 2019 Pippa has been a Trustee for the Barnwood Trust who support change with disabled people and people with mental health conditions. In 2025 Pippa was awarded an MBE for services to the arts.

### **Professor Monique Lhussier**, Director, [Centre for Health and Social Equity, Northumbria University](#)

Prof. Monique Lhussier's research focuses on the experiences of groups that are often deemed 'hard-to-reach' or in situations of social or health precarity, and the systems that marginalise them. She currently co-leads a large award under the UKRI Mobilising Community Assets programme, focusing on improving the system of care for people who have experienced homelessness in North East, North Cumbria. This includes the impact of trauma on day-to-day life, and how services,

including creative industries, could better scaffold people so they can grow beyond trauma. She is passionate about lived experience and the role of Higher Education in tackling health inequalities.

**Professor Sir Michael Marmot**, Director, The UCL Institute of Health Equity

Professor Sir Michael Marmot has been Professor of Epidemiology at UCL since 1985. He is the author of *The Health Gap: the challenge of an unequal world*, and *Status Syndrome: how your place on the social gradient directly affects your health*. Professor Marmot is the Advisor to the WHO Director-General on social determinants of health. He conducted the Strategic Review of Health Inequalities which published '*Fair Society, Health Lives*' in 2010 and *Health Equity in England: Marmot Review 10 Years On* was published in 2020. He was knighted in 2000 for services to epidemiology and the understanding of health inequalities. He was appointed a Companion of Honour for services to public health in the 2023 New Year Honours.

**Dr Layla McCay**, Director of Policy, NHS Confederation

Dr Layla McCay is Director of Policy at the NHS Confederation. She has worked as an NHS doctor at Bupa; the Department of Health and Social Care; the World Health Organisation; and the World Bank. She has held academic roles in the US, Japan, Hong Kong and the UK and founded a think tank that established urban design for mental health in mainstream international policy. Layla is recognized on the Outstanding 100 LGBTQ+ Executives Role Model List and appears regularly in the media such as BBC Question Time and Newsnight. She is the author of *Restorative Cities: Urban Design for Mental Health and Wellbeing* and *Breaking the Rainbow Ceiling: How LGBTQ+ people can thrive and succeed at work*, both published by Bloomsbury.

**Professor Carmine Pariante**, Professor of Biological Psychiatry, King's College London

Carmine M. Pariante is Professor of Biological Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London. He investigates the role of stress in the pathogenesis of mental disorders, with a particular interest in depression and in the perinatal period, including in the effects of the arts interventions on mental health. He has >500 scientific publications and has received numerous awards for his research, including the 2022 Media Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology for his extensive experience in reaching out to the press on topics related to mental health and for the digital publication that he leads:

[www.inspirethemind.org](http://www.inspirethemind.org)

**David Tovey**, Co-Director, Arts and Homelessness International

David Tovey is an internationally award-winning artist, educator, and activist with experiences of homelessness. His work spans photography, painting, installation, and performance art. At the heart of David's practice is his unique ability to combine beauty and raw honesty to raise awareness of social issues, particularly those connected to homelessness, mental health, and the LGBT+ community. He has exhibited his work internationally at the Atsa Festival in Montreal, Kunsthall Stavern in Norway, Tate Modern, Tate Liverpool and Saatchi Gallery. David is Co-Director at Arts & Homelessness International and is recognised as a Big Issue Change Maker (2019). He is the founder of the UK's One Festival of Homeless Arts.

**Dr Justin Varney-Bennett**, Regional Director of Public Health, South West England

Dr Varney-Bennett is a senior public health clinician with experience working across local, regional, national and international levels of the public health system. He is currently responsible for supporting the public health system of the South West of England. Justin's previous roles include Director of Public Health at Birmingham City Council, National Lead for Adult Health and Wellbeing at Public Health England and Strategic Policy Lead at Business in the Community. He has a broad range of experience in creative health, recently creating the Creative Public Health Approach in Birmingham which establishes a matrix of public health officers embedded in cultural organisations and sectors.

**Cedric Whilby**, Chair of Southwark Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SCHWeP)

Cedric Whilby is a strategic advisor and community advocate dedicated to equity, inclusion, and innovative creative health approaches. Based in Southwark, London, he drives collaborations across arts, culture, and public health. Since 2019, Cedric has served as Associate Director of the Southwark Culture Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SCHWEP), leading creative health initiatives with Southwark Council and the local ICB. He also supports creative health initiatives and policies with the Greater London Authority, London Plus, and London Arts and Health. As Associate Director at Livesey Exchange, Cedric empowers local communities. His neurodivergence enriches his inclusive, strategic leadership in arts, health, and wellbeing.

The National Centre for Creative Health provides the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Creative Health. More information is available here:

<https://ncch.org.uk/appg-on-creative-health>