



Mental Health in Context: Research, Policy and Practice



Thursday 10th July 2025

The British Academy, London

In partnership with:



Conference Summary

[British Academy/Wellcome Trust Conferences](#) bring together scholars and specialists from around the world to explore themes related to health and wellbeing. Mental wellbeing has risen up the public policy agenda over the last 20 years and has become a key priority for the UK's health system.

This interdisciplinary, hybrid conference will explore mental health in context, taking evidence from intersections and inequalities across different groups and backgrounds. Responsibility for mental health extends beyond health professionals and should be a priority for those working in social, education, welfare and justice sectors. By bringing together researchers, policymakers and practitioners from these diverse sectors and disciplines, this conference will address how mental health should be responded to through the life course. The Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, which is run every seven years, will be published in 2025, and its important findings will be presented at the conference, sharing valuable new insights to inform policy and practice.

Conference Convenors

- Dr Joanne McLean, National Centre for Social Research

Speakers

- Kadra Abdinasir, Centre for Mental Health
- Andy Bell, Centre for Mental Health
- Professor Terry Brugha, University of Leicester
- Professor Claudia Cooper, Queen Mary, University of London
- Dr Anastasia Fadeeva, City, University of London
- Professor Stephani Hatch, King's College London
- Dhriti Mandalia, National Centre for Social Research
- Franziska Marcheselli, National Centre for Social Research
- Sally McManus, National Centre for Social Research
- Graham Morgan, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
- Professor Rory O'Connor, University of Glasgow
- Mari Toomse-Smith, National Centre for Social Research
- Chris White, Mental Health Foundation

Chairs

- Lucy Schonegevel, Director of Policy and Practice, Rethink Mental Illness

Schedule

09:00	Registration & Coffee
09:20	Welcome and Introduction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Davis, Chief Executive, National Centre for Social Research• Dr Joanne McLean, Director of the Centre for Evaluation, National Centre for Social Research• Lucy Schonegevel, Director of Policy and Practice, Rethink Mental Illness
09:35	Keynote: <i>Mental Health in England</i>
10:00	Keynote Address: <i>What we can do for/with you?</i>
10:20	What does equity mean in mental health?
10:50	Refreshments break and networking
11:05	Responding to violence, abuse, and mental health
11:35	Self-harm and suicide
12:10	Audience Discussion
12:40	Lunch & Networking
13:30	Keynote: <i>A right to good physical health: A significant human rights and social justice issue in mental health treatment and recovery</i>
13:55	Eating Disorders
14:25	Exploring Mental Health Across the Life Course
14:55	Refreshments break and networking
15:10	Mid-life Adults
15:50	Older Adults
16:25	Panel Discussion: <i>Challenges, priorities, and ways forward</i>
17:00	Summing up and close
17:05	Networking Drinks Reception
18:00	Close of networking drinks reception

Keynote: Mental Health in England

09:35 - 10:00
SHAPE Room

Keynote speaker:

- Mari Toomse-Smith, *Director of Health and Biomedical Surveys, National Centre for Social Research*

Highlights from the Fifth Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey

Keynote Address: What we can do for/with you?

10:00 - 10:20
SHAPE Room

Keynote Speaker:

- Graham Morgan, *Engagement and Participation Officer*

What can we do for/with you?

A lived experience perspective of some of the things that matter to us. Can we make love, belonging, connection, loneliness, isolation, respect and dignity part of the research agenda?

What does equity mean in mental health?

10:20 - 10:50
SHAPE Room

Speakers:

- Andy Bell, Chief Executive, *Centre for Mental Health*

Addressing Inequalities in Mental Health: Evidence, Causes and Action

- Professor Stephani Hatch, *Professor of Sociology and Epidemiology and Vice Dean for Culture, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN), King's College London*

Accelerating equity in mental health through inclusive research practices

Responding to violence, abuse, and mental health

11:05 - 11:35
SHAPE Room

Speakers:

- Professor Sally McManus, *Director of Violence and Society Centre, City St George's, University of London*

What the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey can tell us about violence, abuse and mental health in England

- Dr Olumide Adisa, *Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)*

'A Breath of Fresh Air': Translating academic work into policy using a whole-systems approach

Self-harm and suicide

11:35 - 12:10
SHAPE Room

Speakers:

- Professor Rory O'Connor, *University of Glasgow*

Understanding and Preventing Suicide' Understanding the Psychology of Suicide Risk

- Dr Sokratis Dinos, *Director of Health, National Centre for Social Research*

The Association Between Suicidal Ideation and Behavioral Addictions: A Review of Recent Data on Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Demographic Disparities.

12:10 – 12:40

Audience Discussion

Keynote: A right to good physical health: A significant human rights and social justice issue in mental health treatment and recovery

13:30 - 13:55
SHAPE Room

Keynote speaker:

- Chris White, *Citizenship and Participation Officer, Mental Health Foundation*

A right to good physical health: A significant human rights and social justice issue in mental health treatment and recovery

Eating Disorders

13:55 - 14:25
SHAPE Room

Speakers:

- Dhriti Mandalia, *Senior Researcher, National Centre for Social Research*

Prevalence and trends in eating problems and disorders: findings from the Mental Health of Children and Young People Survey 2023

- Professor Tamsin Ford, *Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Cambridge*

Prevalence of Eating Difficulties and Disorder among CYP - or More about the prevalence of eating difficulties and disorder among young people

Exploring Mental Health Across the Life Course Children and Young Adults

14:25 - 14:55
SHAPE Room

Speakers:

- Franziska Marcheselli, *Research Director, National Centre for Social Research*

Findings from the Mental Health of Children and Young People Surveys: 2017 to 2023

- Kadra Abdinasir, *Associate Director of Policy, Centre for Mental Health*

Future Minds: Why investing in young people's mental health is urgent, smart and unavoidable

Mid-life Adults

15:10 – 15:50
SHAPE Room

Speakers:

- Dr Joanne McLean, *Director of the Centre for Evaluation, National Centre for Social Research*

Overlooked and At Risk: Understanding the Mental Health Needs of Mid-Life Women

- Professor Terry Brugha, *Professor of Psychiatry, University of Leicester*

Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Surveys since 1993. Measurement matters.

- Professor Navneet Kapur, *Professor of Psychiatry & Population Health, University of Manchester*

Responding to suicide and self-harm in midlife

Older Adults

15.50-16:25
SHAPE Room

Speakers:

- Professor Claudia Cooper, *Centre for Psychiatry and Mental Health, Queen Mary, University of London*

Informing policy to support the mental health of people with dementia towards the end of life: Findings emerging from

- Dr Anastasia Fadeeva, Research Fellow – *Health Sciences, City, University of London*

Mental Health in Older Adults: Patterns, Risk Factors, and Implications from the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey

Panel discussion: Challenges, priorities, and ways forward

16:25 – 17:00
SHAPE Room

Speakers:

- Graham Morgan, *Engagement and Participation Officer*
- Professor Rory O'Connor, *University of Glasgow*
- Professor Stephani Hatch, *King's College London*

Summing up and close

17:00 - 17:05
SHAPE Room

Speaker:

- Lucy Schonegevel, *Director of Policy and Practice, Rethink Mental Illness*