

## Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference 2021: Radical and creative partnership working

**Date:** 18 May 2021

**Location:** Virtual conference platform

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### Overview

It is increasingly recognised how important mental health and wellbeing is for student success. Universities and colleges are fast-developing 'whole institution approaches' to the student experience and wellbeing, not only to improve academic outcomes and retention, but to provide a holistic and positive experience, even in the most challenging times.

However, it is likely that deeper collaboration and cooperation with a wider range of partners will be necessary to meet the growing demand for student wellbeing support and provision, to address the rising complexity of cases, and the heightened risk to student mental health that university and college staff are dealing with daily. This conference aims to think radically and creatively about partnership working.

In an academic year like no other we have seen how important the whole community has been to get through the tough times together. How can we now work even closer together, move forward and recover from 2020, as well as address the rising demands and expectations which were present well before coronavirus hit?

This one-day conference, organised by the MWBHE in collaboration with Advance HE will interest anyone who works with or supports students. The conference will also be of interest to staff with strategic roles, academic staff, and those who develop policy and practice relating to mental health and wellbeing on campus.

If you're looking for new ideas, a boost in motivation and a fresh vision, then this is the mental health and wellbeing conference for you. From the team who brought you Nailing Jelly to a Wall, organised by frontline support staff for frontline support staff and those they work with, join us to be inspired by established and successful partnerships, to share good practice, to hear about the challenges to partnership working, and to review ways to overcome the difficulties.

## Programme

Time	Activity
9:30am	<b>Platform opens &amp; informal networking</b>
10:00am	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Gary Loke, Director of Knowledge, Innovation and Delivery, Advance HE and Alan Percy (Chair, MWBHE), Head of Counselling, Oxford University</p>
10:10am	<p><b>Keynote</b></p> <p>Gregor Henderson, National Lead, Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing, Public Health England Followed by Q&amp;A</p>
10:30am	<p><b>Panel session: Animating mental health</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Géraldine Dufour (Vice Chair, MWBHE), Head of the University Counselling Service, University of Cambridge</p> <p><b>Joined by</b></p> <p>Neil Pymer, Creative Director, Aardman Animations Jackie Williams, Universities Consultant Trainer, Charlie Waller Trust Ronnie Millar, Director, Student Counselling Services, The University of Edinburgh</p>
11:15am	<b>Break</b>
11:30am	<p><b>Keynote</b></p> <p>Rotimi Akinsete, Associate Dean of Students, University of the Arts London Followed by Q&amp;A</p>
11:50am	<p><b>Panel session: Partnerships in and for real life: Practising the creative and radical</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Nic Streatfield (MWBHE), Head of Student Support and Wellbeing, University of East London and Vice Chair, AMOSSHE</p> <p><b>Joined by</b></p> <p>Michael Priestley, Postgraduate Associate of the Wolfson Research Institute for Health and Wellbeing, Durham University Nicola Byrom, Network Leader, SMaRteN Network Laura Smythson (MWBHE), Head of Wellbeing and Welfare, University of Surrey</p>
12:35pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:35pm	<p><b>Welcome back</b></p> <p>Alan Percy (Chair, MWBHE), Head of Counselling, Oxford University</p>
1:40pm	<p><b>Keynote: Student Money &amp; Mental Health - why it takes a village</b></p> <p>Vivi Friedgut, Founder and CEO, Blackbullion</p>

	Followed by Q&A	
2:00pm	<b>Parallel workshops</b>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Partnerships with students</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Anna Matthews (MWBHE), Chair of UMHAN, CEO and founder of UMO and UMO Pro</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Including</b></p> <p>Angela Ike, Student Counselling Service, University of Cambridge</p> <p>Emma Nieminen, Suicide Calls Project Coordinator, Nightline Association</p> <p>Dr Knut Schroeder, GP and Founder, Expert Self Care</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Partnerships with parents</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Dominique Thompson (MWBHE), GP and Health &amp; Wellbeing Consultant, Buzz Consulting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Including</b></p> <p>Helen Groenendaal, Head of Student Advisory and Wellbeing, Royal Holloway University of London</p> <p>A short video from Tonjje University</p>
3:00pm	<b>Break</b>	
3:20pm	<p><b>Keynote</b></p> <p>Professor Peter Fonagy, Head of the Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London &amp; CEO, Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Followed by Q&amp;A</p>	
3:45pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel session: University-NHS Mental health hubs in cities: A promising future?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Dr Dominique Thompson (MWBHE), GP and Health &amp; Wellbeing Consultant, Buzz Consulting and member of MWBHE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Joined by</b></p> <p>Louise Knowles, Head of counselling and Psychological Wellbeing, The University of Sheffield</p> <p>Jamie Darwen, Equality, Diversity &amp; Inclusivity (EDI) Projects Lead, University of the West of England (UWE)</p> <p>Paula Harrison-Woods, Director of Student Administration &amp; Support, University of Liverpool</p> <p>Professor Peter Fonagy, Head of the Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London &amp; CEO, Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families</p>	
4:25pm	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>Alan Percy (Chair, MWBHE), Head of Counselling, Oxford University</p>	
4:30pm	<b>Close</b>	