

Speaker Biographies

Emma Davey, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

Emma has worked as a Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist in Palliative care for the last twenty-five years, across hospice, acute hospital, community and tertiary care settings, supporting individuals with life limiting illness.

In addition to her specialist palliative care role, she is employed in an additional role in HIV oncology, working alongside Merseyside and Cheshire Cancer Alliance to tackle the challenges people living with HIV face in accessing early cancer diagnosis, treatment, and care. With an MSC in Advanced Clinical Practice, Emma is now working towards a PhD in HIV oncology, aiming to be a positive part of the future of HIV cancer care.

In addition, Emma is a keen educator, lecturing in John Moore's and Liverpool University in HIV, palliative and end of life care, as well as training on Advance Care Planning and advanced communication skills. She won the Fiona Littledale Award at The National PEN awards in 2023, a Macmillan Excellence Award for Quality Improvement Innovation in 2024 and has recently been awarded bronze in the BNJ Oncology Nurse of the year 2026.



Samantha Dawson, Body Positive Dorset

Samantha Dawson was diagnosed with HIV in March 2008, a moment that came as a profound shock. At the same time, she was living with a diagnosis of General Anxiety, and together these experiences marked the beginning of what she describes as an HIV "rollercoaster."

Her first point of support was Body Positive Dorset, an organisation that became central to her journey. It was there that Samantha found a pathway forward, supported by a community that truly understood her experience. Following a particularly impactful women's weekend, she began to reframe her relationship with HIV, moving away from a place of survival toward one of growth and resilience.

The peer support she received played a vital role in shaping this transformation. It provided not only practical guidance but also a sense of belonging and empowerment that has carried through to her work today. Samantha now serves as the Manager of Body Positive Dorset, where she leads the delivery of peer-led services that encompass housing support, general wellbeing, and holistic care.

In addition to her role there, she contributes as a peer mentor for other organisations, including the Sophia Forum. Through this work, and through her own lived experience, Samantha is a committed advocate, actively challenging stigma and discrimination across Dorset and the surrounding areas.



Mike Downey, Renaissance UK

Mike Downey is the Training and Awareness Lead at Renaissance UK, a sexual health and harm reduction charity based in Blackpool, focusing on HIV, sexual health, and substance use.

After completing his undergraduate degree in sexual health studies from the University of Lancashire, he now designs and delivers training for nurses, frontline care staff, and community groups - always with evidence-based practice, trauma-informed care, and combating stigma at the core. Mike turns frontline realities and the stories of those living with HIV into hands-on learning that builds real confidence and compassion in everyday care.

He has run sessions on HIV testing and treatment, combating HIV stigma, chemsex, harm reduction, and inclusive practice for the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalised groups and is passionate about how training, reflection, and co-produced resources can shift culture, tackle stigma, and boost outcomes for those living with or at risk of HIV.



Professor Kevin Fenton, DHSC, OHID and NHSE London

Professor Kevin Fenton is one of the United Kingdom's most influential public health leaders, whose career has been defined by a singular commitment to improving health, advancing equity, and strengthening systems that serve the most vulnerable in society. An internationally recognised epidemiologist and senior public health physician, he has shaped policy and practice at local, national and global levels, combining scientific rigour with moral clarity and decisive leadership. As Regional Director of Public Health for London, Professor Fenton has led health improvement for one of the world's most complex and diverse cities. In this role, he serves as the statutory public health advisor to the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority, guiding strategies that affect the lives of over nine million people. His leadership has been instrumental in tackling some of the most pressing challenges of our time, including cardiovascular disease, mental health, infectious diseases, air quality and the wider determinants of health. His work has positioned London as a global exemplar for urban public health innovation, partnership and delivery.



Laura Hilton, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

Laura qualified as a nurse in 1997 and has worked in areas including respiratory medicine, infectious diseases, tropical medicine, and oncology. She has a total of 28 years of HIV experience, firstly within an inpatient setting and for the past 24 years, as a clinical nurse specialist and then a nurse consultant.

Laura has a degree and a postgraduate diploma in nursing. She is an independent nurse prescriber and has completed her consultation and assessment course.

Laura has a particular interest in extended roles for nurses and new ways of working and was instrumental in setting up nurse-led clinics within her setting in 2005. She believes that specialist nurses are key to delivering high quality, patient centred care.

For the past 2 years, Laura has been part of the NHIVNA executive committee as a Trustee and she chairs the education sub-committee. She also sits on national Frailty and migration working groups.



Daryl Hodge, University of Liverpool

Daryl has worked for Liverpool Drug Interactions since 2018. Starting as an editorial assistant for the HIV drug interaction checker, he now manages the content for the Hepatology website and is helping to develop the new HIV PrEP website. Daryl graduated with a degree in Biological Sciences in Preston in 2007 and studied secretion of GLP-1 in Cambridge for his PhD in 2013. Post-doctoral research posts in Nottingham, Leicester, and Glasgow followed, before moving to Liverpool to work on drug interactions.



Christopher Hodgson, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Christopher is currently working as HIV Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Lancashire HIV Service. In conjunction with a team of consultants, Christopher manages a cohort of around 400 people living with HIV. Christopher has worked for 14 years within the field of Sexual Health and HIV. Christopher is the Co – project lead on the implementation of an opt out BBV testing programme within our local emergency department. Christopher is very passionate about improving the care of people living with and those at risk of HIV.



Imogen Horn, Hampshire and Isle of White NHS Foundation Trust

Imo is a sexual and reproductive health trainee working in Hampshire having previously worked in sexual health in Devon and London. She has an interest in sustainable healthcare and is a member of the BASHH/BHIVA Sustainability Special Interest Group.



Charlie Hughes, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Charlie is an experienced and dedicated HIV Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Stonegrove Centre, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. With 20 years of clinical experience, she is a highly skilled and compassionate nurse who is committed to improving the lives of people living with HIV. In addition to her clinical work, she has a lead role in HIV research with an extensive history of projects looking into the roles and contribution of specialist nurses in HIV services in England. Charlie is currently the local Principal Investigator for the SPHERE Psycho-Social Intervention for People with HIV – Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation study and also facilitates the Sheffield - Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement group for HIV research.



Jen Kendrick, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Jen Kendrick is an HIV Clinical Nurse Specialist and Team Leader at the Northern Integrated Contraception, Sexual Health, and HIV Service at The Hathersage Centre, part of Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust. She has worked at the service since 2008, progressing from a Band 5 rotational nurse—gaining experience in sexual health, health advising, and HIV care—to her current leadership role.

Jen is a qualified non-medical prescriber and enjoys using her specialist skills to support patients in achieving the best possible health and social care outcomes, providing ongoing psychological support throughout their journey.

In addition to her clinical work, Jen has a strong passion for nurse education and for bringing nurses together to improve care for people living with HIV. She has been a member of the NHIVNA Executive Committee since 2021 and took on the role of Treasurer in 2024.



Eleni Kousti, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Eleni Kousti is a Sexual and Reproductive Health Nurse and healthcare leader with 17 years of nursing experience across a range of healthcare settings in Greece and the United Kingdom. She currently leads sexual health services within prison healthcare and coordinates a Women's Health and Wellbeing Hub supporting women in custody.

Over the past eight years, Eleni has specialised in sexual and reproductive health, working with vulnerable and underserved populations and developing services that address health inequalities and improve access to care. Her professional interests include sexual health, public health, women's health, trauma-informed practice and service development within complex healthcare environments.

Eleni is passionate about improving healthcare outcomes through collaboration, innovation and workforce development, and has led a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening pathways between specialist, primary care and community services.



Rachel Morgan, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Rachel Morgan has worked as registered nurse since 2007. Rachel has worked in Sexual Health for 14 years and now works as a Nurse Consultant for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, with a specialist interest in GUM. Rachel has completed a MSc in Sexual Health and has recently introduced a specialist Transgender clinic in Blackpool and is currently introducing Cabotegravir for PrEP in Sexual Health Services.

Rachel has experience of working with vulnerable populations, young people and excels in comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care. Rachel works closely with local populations to ensure that local needs are met within the communities which cover Blackpool and Lancashire.

Rachel enjoys teaching and building on staff skillset to ensure patients are experiencing high standards of care. Rachel supports and organises the STIF course, is a College Registered Trainer and is involved with service delivery with local authority commissioners.

Rachel's philosophy is that good Sexual Health is a holistic state of physical, emotional, mental and social flourishing, which should be embraced through excellent education, health promotion and services where all are welcome.



Angelina Namiba, 4M Network of Mentor Mothers

Originally from Kenya, Angelina has over 28 years of experience working in the HIV sector on different initiatives ranging from providing one-to-one support to people living with HIV, treatment advocacy, and managing service delivery to facilitating, promoting and advocating for the involvement of women living with HIV in forming & informing local and national strategy and policy. Living with HIV for 30 years, she is a founding member of the [4M Network of Mentor Mothers](#), and a co-author/editor of the book "[Our Stories Told By Us: Celebrating the African Contribution to the UK HIV Response](#)". She is Co-Chair of the [SHARE Collaborative](#) Community Advisory Board, a patron of [NHIVNA](#), a Trustee of the [National AIDS Trust](#), [SAFE KENYA](#), [Salamander Trust](#), and a community representative on various national and international boards.



Eileen Nixon, University Hospitals Sussex

Eileen Nixon is a Nurse Consultant in HIV at the Lawson Unit in Brighton, with over 30 years of experience working in HIV care, spanning palliative, acute, and community settings. Since 2004, Eileen has been instrumental in supporting vulnerable and harder-to-reach patient groups, particularly those with complex health needs. She has played a pivotal role in training and developing HIV nursing at both national and international levels.

Eileen is currently Co-Chair of Brighton and Hove Fast track City, Co-Chair of the city's HIV Stigma Working group and is leading on implementing the HIV Confident Charter at University Hospitals Sussex. Eileen continues to undertake research and service improvement projects relating to HIV stigma in healthcare settings.



Linda Panton, NHS Lothian

Linda Panton began her nursing career in the HIV unit in the Regional Infectious Diseases Unit, Edinburgh in 1992.

She completed an MSc in Nursing and Applied Education in 2003 and took up the position of HIV Clinical Nurse Specialist in 2005. She gained her non-medical prescribing qualification in 2006 which allowed her role to develop further. She developed the nurse-led service and introduced annual review appointments for all patients.

She is the current Chair of NHIVNA and has served on the Executive Committee since 2013.



Krishma Patel, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Specialist Clinical Pharmacist with nine years of hospital-based experience, including seven years specialising in infectious diseases and HIV care. Skilled in delivering patient-centered pharmaceutical services, optimising antiviral therapy, and supporting multidisciplinary teams in complex clinical settings. As an Independent Prescriber, they are experienced in assessing and managing patients directly, ensuring safe, effective, and evidence-based treatment outcomes.



Helen Reynolds, University of Liverpool

Helen Reynolds is a Programme Manager for Clinical Trials, in the Centre for Experimental Therapeutics (TherEx) at the University of Liverpool.

Helen has worked in the area of HIV for over 20 years in various positions, with previous nursing positions as a Clinical Research nurse and HIV Specialist nurse in Infectious Diseases and Sexual Health. Helen's areas of research are in pharmacology, early phase clinical trials, drug-drug interactions and pregnancy both in the UK and sub-Saharan Africa.

Helen is currently a member of the NHIVNA executive committee and is chair of the Research Sub-committee.



Jane Shepherd, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Sussex Beacon

Jane Shepherd is a volunteer peer supporter for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Sussex Beacon. She is a member of UK-CAB and has been a community representative and peer researcher for various HIV research studies.



Shiraz Sidat, PlusHealth and University of West England

Shiraz Chaim Sidat is a Trainee Health Psychologist at the University of the West of England, Bristol. He is also a Trustee at Plus Health - a peer-led charity providing practical information, peer support, and wellbeing resources for people living with or affected by HIV.

He has over nine years' experience across HIV and sexual health, spanning prevention, psychosocial support, and research. His work is grounded in community-led approaches and the meaningful involvement of people with lived experience.

At this year's NHIVNA Conference, he is presenting an oral abstract and co-facilitating a community session. His doctoral research and trustee role reflect a commitment to building evidence with, rather than about, communities living with HIV.



Sophie Strachan, Sophia Forum

Sophie Strachan is the CEO of the Sophia Forum and has been an advocate for Women, Gender Equity and HIV for over 20 years, providing policy advice to organizations including WHO, UNAIDS, UKHSA, NHS England. Her work includes expanding PrEP access for minoritized communities, through research and community led programs. Sophie is a member of the BASHH special interest group for prisons and a member of the National Health & Justice working group on BBV Opt -Out screening Programme in Prisons and Places of Detention. Sophie is Vice Chair of BHIVA Special Interest group for women and HIV.



Jack Summerside, Positive East

Jack Summerside joined Positive East as Head of Health and Wellbeing in October 2022, bringing more than 30 years of experience in the charity sector in management and senior management and leadership roles. Much of that experience has been working in HIV charities. Jack was the first Head of Living Well at Terrence Higgins Trust shaping the charities response to people living with HIV, not dying of AIDS. He went on to join the leadership team at UKC – The UK Coalition of People Living With HIV/AIDS.

After a varied freelance career in project management and training delivery for a wide variety of clients – from Stonewall to the Department of Health, Jack spent several years as a full-time family carer, then joined Connected Voice – the CVS organisation serving Newcastle and Gateshead.

As well as this professional experience, Jack recently marked 30 years since his own HIV diagnosis. This lived experience enriches, inspires and informs his leadership of the team at Positive East.

