

Speaker information

Professor Margaret Whoriskey MBE - Head of Innovation for Care & Wellbeing, Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre



Professor Margaret Whoriskey MBE leads innovation for care and wellbeing at the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre, driving national collaboration to transform integrated care and social care through digital technologies. She previously led Scotland's national Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Programme, bringing extensive cross-sector and international experience in scaling digital health and care solutions.

At DHI, Margaret also oversees Digital Lifelines Scotland, a programme reducing drug-related harm through digital inclusion, delivered with SCVO and Simon Community Scotland. She is a clinical psychologist by background, awarded an MBE for services to mental health and learning disability, and serves as a Trustee of ENABLE Scotland and Chair of Hanover Housing Association.

Pam Dudek OBE



Pamela has over forty years of NHS experience in Scotland, holding leadership roles specifically in drug, alcohol, and mental health services, but also as her career progressed in many more generic settings across the system of health and care including Acute services, Community services and Primary Care. She served as Chief Officer in Moray Health and Social Care Partnership during the introduction of Integration Joint Boards with a much more active lead in social care, finishing her NHS career as Chief Executive of NHS Highland. Starting as a psychiatric nurse, she advanced into management across health and social care.

After retiring in 2024, Pamela became Independent Chair for the Alcohol and Drug Partnership in Dundee, and is a Trustee for Dorward House Care Home and the Montrose Community Trust, both providing care and supporting health initiatives in her home town. Pamela is passionate about the importance of working with people on their challenges and opportunities and is particularly keen on innovative and novel ways in which support can be created to assist individuals and those close to them towards a better future.



Richard Lowrie - Reader in the Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health, University of Edinburgh / Pharmacist prescriber, The Access Place, NHS Lothian.

Richard has worked with people facing severe and multiple disadvantage for 25 years, aiming to address health inequalities through individual clinical care and by developing and testing new models of care.



Alan Connor - Portfolio Lead, Digital Addiction Support

Alan Connor leads DHI's digital addiction support portfolio, including the award-winning Digital Lifelines Scotland programme, which uses digital solutions to reduce harm for people who use drugs. He also supports SUMIT, a cross-border initiative developing technology-enabled mental health and substance-use interventions across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Alan brings extensive programme management experience from both the private sector and NHS Scotland and is a strong advocate for digital inclusion and person-centred support.



Aaron Slater - Digital Inclusion Manager, SCVO

Aaron is a leader in digital inclusion, working at the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). In this role he was part of the team that designed and delivered the Connecting Scotland programme and has more recently been contributing his expertise to the delivery of Digital Lifelines Scotland. Aaron's interests in digital inclusion are currently focused on the need to reframe how we tackle digital exclusion, with an emphasis on collective responsibility and a pivot from intervention to infrastructure. His most recent work has centred on the development of place-based approaches and the implementation of frameworks to embed digital inclusion in health and social care.



Laura Scott - Digital Inclusion Partnership Coordinator

Laura is a funding, grant making and partnership specialist at the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). She led the development of funding programmes within the National Digital Inclusion Programme and now contributes her expertise to the delivery of Digital Lifelines Scotland. Her work focuses on building partnerships and designing funding approaches across a range of policy areas, including drugs policy and health and social care.

Laura is passionate about Fair Funding and showcasing the impact of funded work to support shared learning, accountability and long-term change.



Moira Mackenzie - Deputy Chief Executive Officer / Director of Innovation, Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre

Moira Mackenzie is an executive lead at Scotland's Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre, bringing over 30 years' experience in digital transformation across health, housing and care. She has driven major national implementation programmes—including telecare, virtual consultations and remote monitoring—and now oversees strategic engagement, participatory design, finance and communications to accelerate scalable, person-centred digital health and care solutions. Moira also contributes to key strategic boards, strengthening collaboration and contribution to government, NHS, social care, academia and industry.



Maggie Page - Head of Strategy Unit, Drug Policy Division, Scottish Government

Maggie Page has been Head of Strategy Unit within the Drugs Policy with responsibility for strategic delivery and oversight of an annual budget of around £160 million.

She comes from analytical background and was previously the lead analyst for substance use within Scottish Government.



Prof. Andrew McAuley FFPH - Professor of Public Health (Glasgow Caledonian University) and Consultant Healthcare Scientist (Public Health Scotland)

Andrew is Professor of Public Health at Glasgow Caledonian University where he works across the Substance Use and Blood-Borne Virus Research groups. At Public Health Scotland, Andrew leads projects on viral hepatitis and injecting-related infections.

His main research interests are harms related to injecting drug use and evaluation of interventions aimed at reducing risk.



Claire Longmuir - Director of Operations

Claire is a community education practitioner and leader with over 15 years experience working alongside communities to shape evidence based harm reduction approaches grounded in social justice and human rights.

Currently Director of Operations at Simon Community Scotland and a member of the Change team for the National Collaborative her work is guided by compassion and a commitment to creating spaces where people and communities can influence and shape change.



Kimberley Bell Development Coordinator

Kimberley is the Development Coordinator for the By My Side app, a digital harm reduction resource supporting people affected by substance use. Since joining the role in May 2024, she has led the app's ongoing development, working closely with developers, partners and services to ensure it remains practical, accessible and responsive to people's needs.

Kimberley supports the national roll-out of By My Side across Scotland and delivers training to professionals and partner organisations to embed the app into frontline practice. She previously spent nine years working in the education sector.



Professor Catherine Comiskey, Professor of Healthcare Modelling, Global Addiction and Transformation, Trinity College Dublin.

Catherine is a current member and the former Chair of the Scientific Committee of the EUDA (European Union Drugs Agency). Invited expert to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report, consultant to the International Narcotics Control Board, and former ministerial appointed academic expert to the Irish National Drug Strategy Implementation Committee.

She is the sole author of the book, 'Addiction Debates' published by Sage UK in 2020 and sole Author of, Addiction Research and Evaluation, published by Springer in 2024



Alan Miller

Alan ran a community law practice for fifteen years in Castlemilk, Glasgow where he experienced first-hand the futility of the “war on drugs”.

He became elected by the Scottish Parliament as the inaugural Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission and served between 2008 – 2016 before serving as a UN Special Envoy between 2016-19. In 2019 he became a senior independent expert with the UNDP Crisis Bureau and was also appointed by the University of Strathclyde as a Professor of Practice in Human Rights.

Between 2019 and 2021 he served at the invitation of the First Minister as Independent Co-Chair of the National Taskforce on Human Rights Leadership. Its recommendations are now shaping the preparation of the Scottish Human Rights Bill which will bring into our law a range of UN human Rights treaties. Since 2022 at the invitation of the First Minister he has been serving as the Chair of the National Collaborative and has helped lead the process of developing a Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use along with a Toolkit to support its practical application.