

NSPA Conference 2026 Agenda | Conference begins 09:30 and closes at 17:00

Time	Session
08:30	Registration & Networking
09:30	Welcome to the NSPA Annual Conference – Stronger Together: Shaping the Future of Suicide Prevention <i>Tom Ayers, Director, National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, NSPA Co-Chair</i> Where are we now? National leadership, progress and priorities for suicide prevention. Presentations followed by a panel discussion. <i>Jake Richards MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Sentencing, Human Rights and Technology)</i> <i>Professor Sir Louis Appleby, Chair, National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group</i> <i>Ellen O'Donoghue, CEO, James' Place, NSPA Co-Chair,</i> <i>Steve Gilbert OBE, Lived Experience and Anti-Racism Consultant, NSPA Co-Chair</i>
10:45	Morning Break
11:15	From suicide prevention to discovering liveability: possibilities, implications and a radical reimaging of our field <i>Dr Hazel Marzetti, Senior Research Fellow, School of Health in Social Sciences, University of Edinburgh</i>
11:45	Breakout sessions 1a. Shaping the Future of Suicide Prevention <i>Facilitated workshop with the NSPA</i> This session will engage delegates in a collective conversation about how suicide prevention should evolve over the next 5-10 years, identify key priorities during a period of policy and system change, and gather views that can inform future action across the sector. 1b. Supporting children and young people bereaved by suicide <i>Alison Penny, Director, Childhood Bereavement Network and Michelle Stebbings, Executive Lead, Support After Suicide Partnership</i> Colleagues from the SASP and CBN will share insights from their recent research, exploring the benefits of support, views about delivery, and implications for the design and development of services for children bereaved by suicide. 1c. From Crisis to Community: Doing Suicide Prevention Differently <i>Jo Kent, Director and Clinical Lead, Humber Wellbeing Services and Fay Baker, Deputy CEO, Humber Bridge & Safer Public Spaces Network</i>

	How a community response to a suicide cluster developed into a wider model of prevention, what they have learned along the way, and why doing things differently really can save lives.
12:35	Lunch
13:35	Chair's welcome back (5 minutes) <i>Ellen O'Donoghue, CEO, James' Place, NSPA Co-Chair</i> Seeing the whole picture: Integrating diverse data and insights to better understand suicide (panel) <i>Chaired by: Rosie Ellis, Executive Lead, NSPA</i> <i>Panellists: Jake Mills, CEO, Chasing the Stigma, Dr Manawar Jan-Khan, Founder, Campaign for Racial Justice in Suicide Prevention, Isaac Samuels, Head of Partnerships & Campaigns, People's Voice Media, Deputy Lived Experience Co-Chair, NSPA</i> Traditional data sources, such as death registrations and real-time suspected suicide surveillance, remain essential to understanding suicide and informing prevention efforts. However, they tell only part of the story. To develop a richer and more nuanced understanding of suicide, we need to look beyond conventional datasets and draw on a broader range of evidence.
14:20	Breakout sessions 2a. Tracing Liveability with Qualitative Data on Suicide <i>Georgie Akehurst, Research Fellow and Hazel Marzetti, Senior Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh</i> This workshop will consider themes of liveability across extracts of qualitative data produced as part of the Wellcome funded Suicide Cultures: Reimagining Suicide Research project. 2b. Talking to chatbots about suicide - Emerging findings <i>Lydia Grace, Online Excellence Programme Lead, Samaritans, Jacob Greaves, Researcher and Principle Investigator, University College London, Emily Nuttall, Expert by Experience Project Worker, Speaker and Trainer and Drew Taylor, Lived Experience & Stay Alive App Manager, Grassroots Suicide Prevention</i> AI chatbots are increasingly being used by people experiencing suicidal thoughts as a source of support. This session will share emerging findings on both the opportunities and risks associated with using AI chatbots. 2c. More than a Story: From Voice to Influence in Suicide Prevention <i>Maria Roberts, Churchill Fellow and Strategic Consultant, Trainer and Facilitator and Jess Worner, Lived Experience Network Manager, NSPA</i> Join Maria Roberts and Jess Worner for a conversation circle exploring themes from Maria's recent Churchill Fellowship report, More Than a Story, alongside reflections from the NSPA's Lived Experience Network (LEN).

15:10	Afternoon break
15:35	Solidarity and intersectionality: Amplifying marginalised voices in suicide prevention <i>Chaired by: Steve Gilbert OBE, Lived Experience and Anti-Racism Consultant, NSPA Co-Chair</i> <i>Panellists: Rachel Bothamley, Head of Engagement and Co-Director, Body & Soul, Natalia-Nana Lester-Bush, Equity & Inclusion in Mental Health Specialist, Nikhwat Marawat, The Delicate Mind, Jess Worner, Lived Experience Network Manager, NSPA</i> Panel discussion exploring: • Experiences of marginalisation in suicide prevention • Suicide prevention through an intersectional lens • Solidarity and learning between marginalised communities • How can the suicide prevention community better hear, amplify and work with marginalised communities?
16:15	Moments of Connection: Rethinking Reach, Connection and Support <i>Ben West, Mental Health Campaigner and Founder of Reasons to Stay in conversation with Kate, NSPA Lived Experience Influencer</i>
16:45	Conference Closing from NSPA Co-Chairs <i>Tom Ayers, Director, National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, NSPA Co-Chair, Ellen O'Donoghue, CEO, James' Place, NSPA Co-Chair, Steve Gilbert OBE, Lived Experience and Anti-Racism Consultant, NSPA Co-Chair</i>