



THE  
**HEALTH  
CREATORS  
SUMMIT**

VHS Annual Conference 2023

**Voluntary Health Scotland**  
Annual Conference 2023

**Wednesday 25th October 2023**  
Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

[#WeAreHealthCreators](#) [@VHSComms](#)



# Conference Agenda

**9.00 – 10.00**    **Registration, refreshments, exhibition and poster viewing**

**10.00 – 11:15**    **Session One**

**Welcome from Conference Chair**

Richard Meade, Director of Carers Scotland and Carers Northern Ireland

**Conference Overview**

Claire Stevens, Chief Executive, Voluntary Health Scotland

**Keynote Address**

Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

**Keynote Address**

Lord Nigel Crisp, independent member of the House of Lords, working and writing extensively on global health

**11.15 – 11.45**    **Refreshments, exhibition and poster viewing**

**11.45 – 13.00**    **Session Two**

**Panel discussion: A Connected Scotland Discussion about Social Isolation and Loneliness**

- Paul Okroj, Director of Stakeholder Engagement and Service Development, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS)
- Kevin McGowan, Strategic Lead for Equality and Inclusion, Scottish Government
- Adam Stachura, Head of Policy and Communications, Age Scotland
- Susan Hunter, CEO, Befriending Networks
- Rob Murray, Scotland Director, British Red Cross

**13.00 – 14.00**    **Lunch, exhibition, poster viewing**

**14.00 – 15.30**    **Session Three**

**Keynote Address**

Angiolina Foster CBE, Chair, Public Health Scotland

**Accessing Adult Mental Health Services in Scotland**

Mark MacPherson, Audit Director, Audit Scotland

**Presentation of the 2023 Poster Competition Winner**

**15.30**            **Conference Close**



# Our speakers

- **Richard Meade, Director of Carers Scotland and Carers Northern Ireland**
- 🔗 @richardmeade13



- **Claire Stevens, Chief Executive, Voluntary Health Scotland**
- 🔗 @ClaireJStevens



- **Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care**
- 🔗 @MathesonMichael



- **Lord Nigel Crisp, Independent Member, House of Lords**
- 🔗 @LordNigelCrisp



- **Paul Okroj, Director of Stakeholder Engagement and Service Development, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS)**
- 🔗 @PaulJOkroj



- **Kevin McGowan, Strategic Lead for Equality and Inclusion, Scottish Government**
- 🔗 @ScotGov



- **Adam Stachura, Head of Policy and Communications, Age Scotland**
- 🔗 @adamstachura



- **Susan Hunter, CEO, Befriending Networks**
- 🔗 @befriendingnet



- **Rob Murray, Scotland Director, British Red Cross**
- 🔗 @robmurray11



- **Angiolina Foster CBE, Chair, Public Health Scotland**
- 🔗 @AngiolinaFoster



- **Mark MacPherson, Audit Director, Audit Scotland**
- 🔗 @AuditScotland



## Wi-Fi log in at Dynamic Earth:

Network name: DELEGATES  
Password: D3L3GATES





## Thank you from Voluntary Health Scotland

"The VHS team are delighted to be back for this year's annual conference, our Health Creators' Summit. 2023 has brought the health and voluntary sectors many challenges but we continue to be proud of how resilient and adaptable we are. Collaboration and innovation have always been at the heart of how we work but have never been more prevalent. It is heartening to see so many members and partners join us at our annual event this year as we continue to discuss the importance of tackling health inequalities and making health fairer. Thank you to all of you for making the journey to be here today. I would encourage you to make the most of the opportunity where we have so many experts in the room – this is your chance to learn, explore, make new connections, share your best practice and make a difference to the health of those you work with."



**Rob Murray, Chair, Voluntary Health Scotland**

"Modern medicine does remarkable things, and its surgical and technological advances are ever-increasing. But medicine cannot prevent or cure much of what makes us sick and causes suffering. Change is both necessary and hard, if we are to build a healthy and health-creating society, and we need a keener understanding of what good health and wellbeing means and what actually works at a community level to create it. You are probably here today because you are already one of Scotland's health creators, so please share your story, link up with other health creators, and take inspiration, encouragement and courage from today's event. Have a great conference!"



**Claire Stevens, Chief Executive, Voluntary Health Scotland**

## Thank you to our amazing exhibitors



Tweet with us  [#WeAreHealthCreators](https://twitter.com/WeAreHealthCreators) [@VHSComms](https://twitter.com/VHSComms)