Wessex Quality and Improvement Conference
Keynote Speakers
#CSIPwessex16

Dr Suzette Woodward - National Director, Sign up to Safety Campaign

Suzette Woodward is a paediatric intensive care nurse who has worked for 35 years in the NHS; she has a Doctorate in Patient Safety and has held national positions in safety improvement for the past 15 years.

Previous Board Director posts at the National Patient Safety Agency and NHS Litigation Authority and currently the National Director for Sign up to Safety.

Dr Bill Kirkup CBE

Dr Bill Kirkup CBE joined the Ombudsman’s office in March 2016 as Lead Associate Investigator.

Bill was previously Chairman of the Morecambe Bay Investigation in July 2013 and, before that, led investigations into the Oxford paediatric cardiac surgery unit and Jimmy Savile’s involvement with Broadmoor Hospital.

Bill’s career highlights include: Member of the Hillsborough Independent Panel, Associate Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health from 2005 to 2009, Regional Director of Public Health, Working on public health and reconstruction in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, and Director of Provider Performance Management at the Department of Health, Northern and Yorkshire, 1996 to 1999. Bill was awarded a CBE in 2008.

Helen Vernon - Chief Executive, NHS Litigation Authority

After graduating in Law from Cambridge she started her career in insurance and then moved to the Medical Defence Union before joining the Litigation Authority in 1998, becoming its Director of Claims in 2013.

She is a Chartered Insurer and Accredited Mediator.

Peter Walsh, BA MBA - Chief Executive, Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA)

Peter became Chief Executive of the patient safety charity AvMA in January 2003. AvMA is the leading patients’ charity working for better patient safety as well as justice (in the widest sense) for patients affected by lapses in safety. Peter led AvMA’s work as a core participant in the Mid Staffordshire Public Inquiry and arguably one of his most notable achievements has been leading the charity’s successful campaign for a legal “Duty of Candour”. He writes and speaks regularly on the subjects of patient safety and access to justice. Before joining AvMA he was Director of the Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales, a local Community Health Council chief officer and has worked extensively in the voluntary sector.

Other positions currently held:
- World Health Organisation “Patients for Patient Safety Champion”
- Editorial Advisory Board of Clinical Risk journal

Clare Bowen

Mother of Bethany and active campaigner for learning from error and the integration of human factors and ergonomics in healthcare
Dr Kate Pryde - Consultant Paediatrician, Southampton General Hospital

Kate is a General Paediatric Consultant at Southampton Children’s Hospital and Health Education England (Wessex) lead for Quality Improvement in Child Health. Kate is a founding member of the Health Foundation’s Q initiative.

Throughout her career she has been actively involved in improving services. She is passionate about ensuring all staff have the knowledge and skills to create sustainable change to ensure the delivery of safe, high quality care with patients and their families at the heart of this. She has been involved in a variety of initiatives which are helping to facilitate this including delivery of training programmes to NHS staff, mentoring of patient safety and improvement projects and in collaboration with others influencing stakeholders to ensure a culture of continued improvement is embedded into the NHS at every level.

Sue Mellor MA, Registered Nurse – Head of Patient Services and Voluntary Services Manager, Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals NHS FT

Sue is also Vice Chair for the National Association for Voluntary Services Managers. In her spare time she runs a consultancy providing training and coaching to teams and individuals. She is an advocate of the clinical human factors group (chfc.org) and passionate about cultural transformation through creative leadership to improve the patient experience.

She has worked extensively throughout the NHS and is often invited to speak, facilitate large group events, and recently co-authored Practical Leadership in Nursing and Health Care. Sue is an accredited mediator and human factors trainer.

Alan Mercel-Sanca

Alan is a member of the LGB&T community, working at Dorset, and national levels as an LGB&T educationalist. In 2013 Alan became client & lead for a Bournemouth University Sports Faculty research report into homophobia in sport which received wide recognition for its importance and quality, including being cited by the TUC General Secretary.

Alan is convenor/chair for the ‘LGB&T Dorset Equality Network.’ Alan is also organisation development & education officer with Dorset Race Equality Council. He is a member of the Dorset CCG Patient & Public Engagement Group (PPEG), leading on equality & inclusion topics concerning the Clinical Services Review. He has also provided E&D training to senior commissioners and department heads at Dorset CCG.
Conference Leads

Conference Senior Sponsors

Professor Jane Reid – Clinical Lead for the Wessex Patient Safety Collaborative (PSC)

Building on a career of Nursing posts in acute care and Higher Education, Jane’s roles within the past eight years have included Nurse Advisor to the NPSA, President of the Association for Perioperative Practice (AfPP), Intervention Lead Patient Safety First, Nurse Advisor WHO 2nd Global Challenge Safe Surgery Saves Lives (Geneva), Associate Dean (Nursing and Allied Health Professions) Bournemouth University and Dean Somerset Academy.

Jane’s current portfolio includes, Co-Chair Learning to be Safer Expert Group, Health Education England (HEE), Clinical Lead Wessex Patient Safety Collaborative, Regional Lead (South of England) for Sign up to Safety, and Non-Executive Director Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Special interests include professionalism, human factors, patient safety, continuous quality improvement, healthcare ethics and law. In 2013 Jane was recognised by the HSJ in association with Barclays and the NHS Leadership Academy, as one of the most inspirational women leaders, in healthcare.

Dr Fleur Kitsell – Health Dean, Health Education England (Wessex)

Fleur is the Health Dean for Health Education England’s Wessex Team since 2015. Her role includes a remit for research, innovation and improvement and she also is the Head of the HEE Wessex School of Quality Improvement. The School’s ambition is to support individuals, teams and organisations to have the skills to implement improvement projects in the workplace. Each year the School offers a number of Quality Improvement Fellowships for individuals and teams, and we now have a healthy number of alumni in the system who are able to offer support and help to others.

She is a Physiotherapist and worked in the HEI sector for many years.

Dr Simon Plint - Postgraduate Dean, Health Education England (Wessex)

Simon has been the Dean of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education for Health Education England’s Wessex Team since 2011.

Simon was the Medical Education Commissioning Dean for South Central Strategic Health Authority. He worked as a Senior Clinical Adviser to the Department of Health from 2007 - 2013, leading on GP education and workforce.

For approximately two decades Simon was an Oxford University GP with a special interest in sports medicine and became the medical officer for Oxford University's Rugby Club. As a GP Dean for the Oxford Deanery, he developed the GP National Recruitment process and was the clinical adviser to the Department of Health, Modernising Medical Careers and led the major expansion of GP training numbers in England and subsequently chaired the GP Taskforce Report which was published in 2014.

Award presenters

Bill Gillespie  
Chief Executive,  
Wessex AHSN

Ruth Monger  
Local Director,  
Health Education England,  
Wessex

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Conference Leads


Following previous roles within Health Education England (Wessex), Siobhan is currently working to champion, further develop and support the delivery of quality improvement education and initiatives as part of the Wessex School of Quality Improvement.

Since late 2015, Siobhan has also been working with the Wessex AHSN to co-project manage the establishment of the Community of Safety and Improvement Practice, including the delivery of the Wessex Quality and Improvement Conference.

Siobhan’s academic background includes a degree in law and Master’s degree in Criminal Justice.

Tracy Broom RGN MSc – Associate Director PSC, Wessex AHSN

Tracy has over 30 years’ experience in the NHS as a nurse and a senior manager; she has a Master’s degree in Leadership and Organisation of Public Services. Her clinical career focused on Emergency Nursing and as an Emergency Department Sister she worked directly to the Chief Executive as part of an improvement team using Business Process Reengineering principles.

More recently, she has enjoyed positions with NHSE Wessex looking at the implementation of the Friends and Family Test in general practice and then with Wessex Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) looking at the spread and adoption of innovation across the footprint. Tracy is now working with Wessex AHSN full time as Associate Director for the Patient Safety Collaborative.

She is a busy mum to a lively teenage daughter and is also the primary support for her father who lives with her and who has Parkinson’s disease. Patient Safety is central to both her professional and family life.