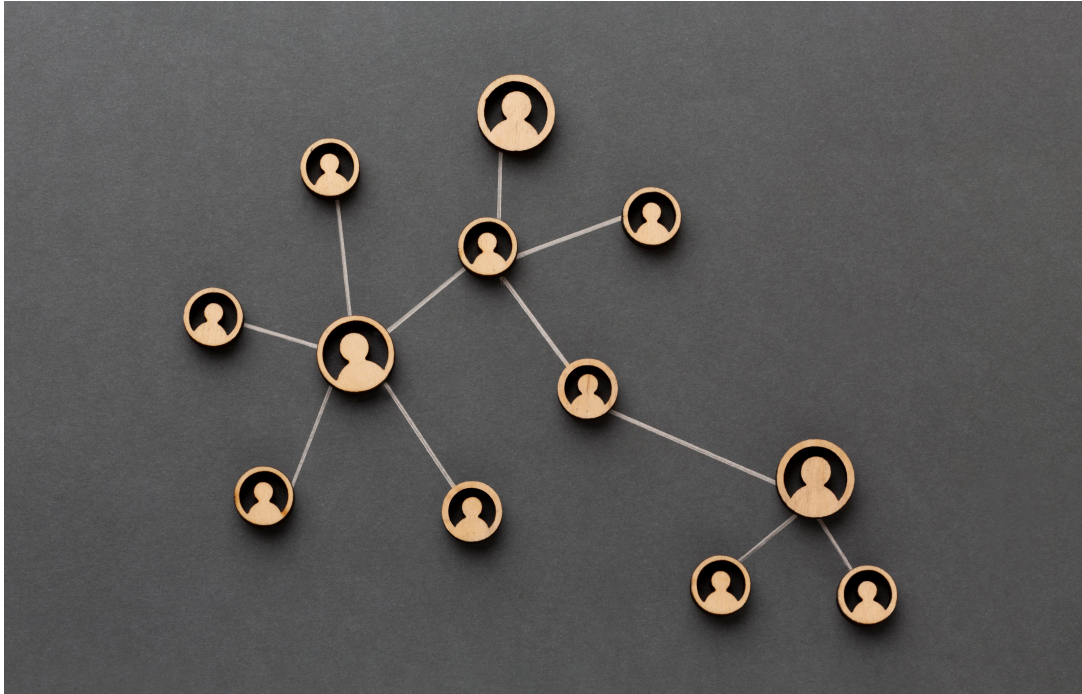


THE COUNCIL FOR
WORK & HEALTH



April 2026 Newsletter



A message from our Chair, Kevin Bampton

The last few weeks have seen very rich interactions with many Council members at the NEC in Birmingham, where our organisations and leading lights were very much in evidence, at the House of Commons, at the IOSH prevention event, the House of Lords for the launch of the College of Work and Health and at Lloyds Register for round tables on the OSH skills shortage.

Following the web workshop on health in the creative industries, there is considerable interest in following up the issues raised and the Council has been asked to play a convening role in this. It will be our pleasure to explore how we can make a difference in this space.

The Council had its first in-person meeting since the coronavirus outbreak, following on from an important research priority-setting meeting, arranged by SOM and the Colt Foundation. Despite a long day for several of the attendants, it was a genuine pleasure to be able to facilitate discussions around the professional standards led by so many of our members. It provided the opportunity to articulate and engage with the mosaic of invaluable skills and services that together form the foundation for the UK's work and health practice.

Based on the contributions at this event, the Council aims to create a website which articulates the roles of the different professions and practices and the underpinning professional standards. We hope this will be the first step in celebrating and promoting the complementary interprofessional and multiprofessional provision for work and health. I am very grateful to Anna and fellow Board members for assisting with making this happen and look forward, in particular, to our next in-person meeting.

News from Council Members



iOH news

- An exceptionally successful Health and Wellbeing conference at the NEC, getting to see our members and new members plus our partners
- RAML was a resounding success with 90 attendees, a well-received talk by Nancy Doyle and a magic act from Angus Baskerville. Can't wait for next year #RAML2027
- iOH are proud to be a supporter of the College of Work and Health, contributing to standards within the wider Health and work sphere
- Coming soon, regular themed Professional Practice reflection sessions. iOH aim to provide collaborative and supportive learning that enhances professionalism provides an opportunity for clinicians from the multidisciplinary membership, to reflect on practice, develop expertise, find new ways of learning, and gain professional support. The approach facilitates interdisciplinary learning i.e. learning from each other and aims to:
 - Give an increased sense of support by realising others have similar concerns
 - Find new and better ways of dealing with situations by listening to others
 - Allow individuals to explore different ideas about how they will solve problems by obtaining a range of feedback from others about issues or concerns
 - Provide a safe environment where individuals can discuss their limitations and problems without criticism.

The AI in OH collaboration group now has a linkedIn page where all resources, articles etc. are shared. Please feel free to follow us In the meantime. The website is kept up to date.

Janet O'Neill

Vice President



HSE Home working guidance and resources

Employers have the same health and safety responsibilities for people working at home as for any other worker.

The HSE [home working guidance](#) provides straightforward guidance on actions to manage home workers' health and safety.

This includes the risks of stress and poor mental health as well as working with display screen equipment (DSE). Check the link above for more information.



IOSH

OSH workshop at the House of Commons, 24th February

A huge thank you to everyone who joined IOSH at the House of Commons on 24 February for our workshop exploring how a prevention-first, person-centred approach can help keep Britain working. The event brought together policymakers, chartered bodies and employers for a rich, cross-disciplinary discussion on how best to support people to return to, and stay in, good, healthy work.

We were delighted to hear from Dame Diana Johnson MP, Minister for Employment, who reflected on the vital role of work in providing “pride, purpose and independence”. Sir Charlie Mayfield, Chair of the Government’s *Keep Britain Working Review*, emphasised the importance of preventative approaches and good work in strengthening labour market participation and the UK economy. Two panel discussions explored how prevention can support the Government’s response to the review and how organisations can adopt practical, person-centred approaches to support workers’ health and wellbeing.

If you were unable to attend but would like to stay informed, please contact ceri.finnegan@iosh.com. Further information and next steps

will be shared with attendees in the coming weeks.

You can also read the full news release about the event [here](#).

New white paper demands action as tech outpaces worker protection

IOSH published its latest white paper, 'The digital dilemma: balancing progress with worker protection', shining a spotlight on the widening gap between rapid technological adoption and the safeguarding of those working with and alongside emerging technologies.

Our new research reveals a clear imbalance: while 36% of organisations now rank cybersecurity as a top digital priority and 34% are accelerating AI deployment, only 26% are placing equivalent focus on how technology can support worker safety, health and wellbeing. This signals a critical moment for employers to re-centre people in the design and deployment of digital systems.

The white paper calls for a prevention-first, human-focused approach to innovation - one that ensures digital transformation strengthens, rather than sidelines, safe and healthy work.

Read the article and download a copy of the white paper [here](#).

IOSH supports Affinity Health at Work workplace wellbeing framework

IOSH is supporting a new workplace wellbeing framework developed by Affinity Health at Work, aimed at helping professionals strengthen resilience and redesign wellbeing strategies for modern workforces. You can find the published article which explains what the framework means [here](#).



FOHN news

On 24 February there was a National Health and Wellbeing Forum webinar to launch the managing trauma in the workplace report:

[Managing trauma in the workplace](#)

FOHN are finalising the revised Accreditation scheme and hope to re-launch in April when the new website on SOM is ready.



Engage Study

How can research and practice work together to create healthier working lives? This is the question at the heart of the **Engage Study**, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research and delivered in partnership between **Affinity Health at Work, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust**, and the **London Centre for Work and Health**. Across the UK, practitioners, researchers, and senior leaders

all have a vital role to play in improving workforce health and wellbeing. But there is increasing recognition that stronger links are needed between evidence, practice, and decision-making if we are to make real progress.

To date, we have conducted focus groups and interviews with practitioners, researchers, and senior leaders, as well as an online survey of practitioners representing a broad range of disciplines and settings. Early findings reveal a strong appetite among practitioners to engage more with research evidence and research activity. However, this is often held back by a number of common challenges, including access and time. Practitioners have told us they would welcome a range of support, and in the coming months we will be distilling and reporting our findings.

These findings are not only relevant to practitioners. They also have important implications for membership organisations, faculties, and researchers, all of whom have a role to play in equipping practitioners with the right skills and ensuring research outputs are accessible, relevant, and useful in practice. Next, we will be developing **a multi-level, multi-profession roadmap for the future**, setting out practical ways to strengthen the relationship between evidence and practice in support of healthier people and healthier organisations. This will be presented to a stakeholder roundtable in mid-April. If you would like to be kept up to date with the study and findings, please complete this [form](#) or visit [The Engage Project | Affinity Health at Work](#).



COLLEGE *of* WORK & HEALTH

College of Work & Health

The launch of the **College of Work and Health** took place on 25 March 2026. Attendees included The Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE, Minister of State at the Department for Work and Pensions and Dr Gail Allsopp, Chief Medical Advisor for the Department for Work and Pensions.

The new college will contribute towards standards in workplace health and ultimately a healthier UK workforce. And the CIPD is represented on the Board of Trustees.

About the College of Work and Health:

The College of Work and Health will work in partnership with other professional bodies in work and health to agree and promote competency standards, professional recognition, and support best practice for those working in the work and health sector.

[Please see press release for more information.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Wheeler, Head of Communications at FOM ben.wheeler@fom.ac.uk



**Supporting occupational health
and wellbeing professionals**

SOM activities and updates

SOM Recognised Education

*SOM Recognised Education is a free pilot for 2025/6,
supporting education course development UK and internationally.*

SOM Recognised education is a measure of excellence for learning programmes. It is a validation and celebration of outstanding practice in delivering learning. It signifies that it takes the quality of its learning seriously and that improvement and development is central to its practice. The process involves self-assessment and external validation to inform organisational and learning development. Learning can include face-to-face delivery whether a one-off events or a learning programme; e-learning; seminars; conferences; webinars and short update sessions.

Successful applicant organisations can use the logo to convey that the learning programme is well designed and increases the confidence of all parties. There is an annual recognition review for courses every year: SOM Recognised Education will receive the unique SOM logo for use for one year, renewal for up to 3 years before formal review.

For full details, please contact nick.pahl@som.org.uk

SOM Recognised Education

If you have an innovative course that you think would be good for SOM to recognise, do see attached.

SOM Supervision for Docc meds and Portfolio medics

This year, SOM will start supervision for Docc Meds in the first two years of practice and Portfolio candidates, with a supervision lead now in place. Do contact SOM if you are interested.

WISE-QM is a new joint initiative between SOM and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych). Together, these professional bodies are committed to shaping a more transparent, consistent, and effective wellbeing landscape across workplaces. WISE-QM is a sector-wide quality mark designed to recognise, strengthen, and standardise the provision of workplace wellbeing services, important to help effective choices based on evidence, following this report

<https://www.som.org.uk/som-buyers-guide-wellbeing-products-or-services>.

The quality mark will help OH professionals, and those responsible for purchasing wellbeing products or services, with a signal of who is providing an evidence-based framework, and so helping make informed and effective decisions and make sure there are no unintended consequences for workers.

The quality mark should reduce the challenges posed by the increasing number of digital health solutions, such as insufficient evidence of effectiveness, data security issues, and ensuring access and engagement. It will also ensure going monitoring of impact and evaluation of wellbeing interventions to confirm they are achieving the desired outcomes. It provides a trusted benchmark for excellence, ensuring that organisations and employees receive support that is high-quality, evidence-informed, and genuinely impactful. See www.rcpsych.ac.uk/WISEQM. There is [an online joining form](#) which services can use to register their interest.

Please do pass onto wellbeing service providers that you work with.

Dates for your diary



15 April 2026

Health Coaching Skills for Occupational Health Professionals

Free

Date: **15th April 2026**

Time: **9:30am to 1:00pm**

How: **Online**

Places available: **30**

To book: email janet.oneill6@nhs.net

As Occupational Health professionals, we often guide individuals through critical health, work and lifestyle changes. But can we support lasting behaviour change more effectively? Where could health coaching fit into our repertoire of skills in the occupational health toolkit.

This 3.5-hour online workshop, hosted by the National School for Occupational Health, provides an approach to integrating health coaching techniques into everyday clinical practice. Led by Mandy Murphy, an experienced and senior Occupational Health Practitioner and Executive Coach, this session will help you:

- ◆ Understand core coaching principles and their application in OH and wider healthcare
- ◆ Develop an everyday coaching mindset—shifting from expert to enabler
- ◆ Embed practical coaching techniques into everyday patient/client interactions
- ◆ Gain actionable tools you can implement immediately



15 April 2026

Date: 15/04/2026

Time: 11.00 - 12.00

Title: AI & Digital Technology in Occupational Health: Opportunities, Applications and What Comes Next

Location: Microsoft Teams

Speaker: Manoj Patel

More details and registration: <https://acpohe.csp.org.uk/news-events/events/events-listing/webinar-ai-digital-technology-occupational-health-opportunities>



22 April 2026

Visit to University of Lancashire Wellness Centre 22 April

Book at <https://www.som.org.uk/civCRM/event/info?reset=1&id=923>



29-30 April 2026

Asbestos 2026 FAAM Conference

2026 sees the ninth annual asbestos conference organised in conjunction with the Faculty of Asbestos Assessment & Management (FAAM) with an in-person event on the 29th and 30th April in Birmingham.

The event brings together researchers, academics, practitioners & regulators, through talks & technical sessions dealing with scientific topics covering key areas regarding the assessment, control & management of asbestos. The conference is open to anyone to attend, not just BOHS & FAAM members. The 2026 Asbestos FAAM conference programme will be available soon!

You can find more information and book your place [here](#).

[Asbestos 2026 – FAAM Conference \(Birmingham\)](#)



11-14 May 2026

Inhaled Particles & International Particle Toxicology Conference (Glasgow)

11-14 May 2026

Two major international conferences unite to explore cutting-edge science on particle exposure, inhalation and toxicology, with parallel strands and joint sessions.



16-17 June 2026

Call for Abstracts for the SOM/FOM 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting is open. All submissions welcome.

The Conference will be held in Nottingham on 16th and 17th June 2026. The day before the main Conference, 15th June - there will be workplace visits available (pre-booking essential), as well as the Welcome Reception in the evening at the impressive Nottingham Castle. Please see below for the information. *Submit your abstract(s)*

ahead of 2nd March 2026 at

<https://www.occupationalhealthconferences.com/>



16-18 June 2026

OH2026 – The Workplace Health Protection Conference (Glasgow)

16-18 June 2026 (PDCs on 15 June)

A larger, more innovative programme for 2026.

Abstract submissions now open:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/79525/submitter>



24 June 2026

Webinar: EdgeAI: 6 Months of exploratory activity working with OH in the NHS.

Our next webinar is on the 24th of June at 7pm and is with EdgeAI: 6 Months of exploratory activity working with Occupational Health in the NHS – Where can Edge AI add value?



Health at Work Network

10 September 2026

NHS Health at Work Network, Annual Conference

The NHS Health at Work Network's popular annual Conference is taking place on 10 September at the Chesford Grange in Warwickshire. With a range of expert guest speakers, we will be joined by 230+ OH professionals and will be covering innovative topics including AI in OH, supporting staff with cancer, and clinical negligence. For further information, and to make a booking, please contact:

admin@nhshealthatwork.co.uk

Flyer available [here](#)



14-19 February 2027

ICOH 2027 – Call for Abstracts

Mumbai, India | 14th–19th February 2027 The International Scientific Advisory Committee, the Trustee Committee and the National Scientific Committee of ICOH 2027 invites researchers, professionals, practitioners, and students to actively contribute to the scientific program by submitting abstracts for consideration as oral or poster presentations in the Free Paper Sessions.

<https://www.icoh2027.in/call-for-abstracts.html>. For more information please contact: Email: SC@icoh2027.in

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Spread the word: Council Connect is for everyone invested in safer, healthier work.

We encourage you to share this newsletter within your networks and across your social media channels where it may be of interest. If colleagues or contacts would like to receive their own copy of *Council*

Connect, they can request to be added to our mailing list by contacting Anna at anna@forumconferences.com



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