

**Working with Suicide in Universities and Colleges Conference**  
Monday 11 June 2018, The Tower, Central London, E1W 1LD

Time	Session	Presenter
08.45-09.10	<b>Registration &amp; Refreshments</b> <i>The executive will be available throughout registration for questions and networking.</i>	
09.10-09.30	Welcome & introductions	
09.30-10.30	Research and guidelines	Alan Percy
10.30-11.00	Refreshment break	
11.00-12.00	<a href="#">Suicide exploration: Approaching suicide risk from a dialogic position</a>	Andrew Reeves
12.00-13.00	<a href="#">Working with Coroner's Court</a>	Sian Jones-Davies & Dean Hickey
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-14.30	<a href="#">Working with suicide in Multi-Disciplinary Teams</a>	Geraldine Dufour
14.30-15.30	<a href="#">Learning lessons: Saving young lives</a>	Ged Flynn
15.30-16.00	Refreshment break	
16.00-16.45	Q&A panel	All presenters
16.45-16.50	Event Close	

*\*\*Please note that the programme and speakers are subject to change and it will be updated in due course\*\**

## Suicide exploration: Approaching suicide risk from a dialogic position

Dr Andrew Reeves

The ‘science’ of working with suicide potential - risk factors and risk assessment forms - have increasingly dominated practice over the last two decades. While such approaches have much to offer, the tendency has been for services to rely too heavily on their predictive accuracy at the expense of a more explorative approach. Additionally, in the context of practitioner anxiety about the potential for suicide, and talking about suicide, the danger of a dialogic chasm appearing between those considering suicide, and those offering supportive interventions, is very real. This talk will consider how practitioners might use a full range of approaches in exploring suicide potential and how, in that context, many clients can be re-positioned to a safer place.

This workshop will help you to:

1. Critically reflect on the current approaches to working with suicide risk
2. Consider the evidence-base for suicide assessment approaches
3. Critically reflect on what we currently know about how practitioners respond to suicide potential
4. Consider the importance of talking about suicide with clients
5. Identify some key ‘good practice’ guidelines to support university and college staff in their role

Dr Andrew Reeves is a BACP Senior Accredited Counsellor/Psychotherapist with over 30 years’ experience of working in secondary care mental health services (as a psychiatric social worker and therapist), and in education, in schools and universities. He has supervised therapists in a range of settings for many years. He is Director of Universities and Further Education for the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, and a Senior Lecturer in counselling, psychotherapy and psychological trauma at the University of Chester. He has published widely in the area of suicide prevention, including three books on the subject and numerous chapters and journal articles.

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## Working with Coroner’s Court

Siân Jones-Davies and Dean Hickey

For institutions in the further and higher education sectors, the death of a student often raises reputational and legal issues. Where the death is sudden or unexplained, as in the case of suicide, Inquests are held. The Coroner must determine - who died, when and where they died and how they came by their death. It is likely that the student’s educational provider will be invited to participate as an interested person, alongside the family and often medical institutions such as the NHS are also involved. For many it will

be an unfamiliar and often daunting process and considerable thought must be given to the level of support that should be provided to staff giving evidence. During the session we aim to provide a route map through the Inquest procedure including top tips on preparing for the hearing, advice on witness support and how to manage the media to prevent reputational harm.

Siân Jones-Davies is a key member of Eversheds Sutherland's national Education sector group and its lead student lawyer. She has significant experience of providing legal and strategic advice to the sector, including in complex and sensitive reputational matters.

Dean Hickey is an Associate in Eversheds Sutherland's Environment, Health and Safety team. He is well versed on the law, procedure and the strategy to adopt in inquests to ensure the appropriate information is shared with the coroner whilst protecting the reputation of the organisation. He is experienced in delivering training to clients on a variety of health and safety topics.

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## **Working with suicide in multi-disciplinary teams**

**Geraldine Dufour**

In this session we will identify the pro-active role that embedded counselling and mental health services in Further and Higher Education can play in supporting suicidal clients. We will examine the key issues to address when working in a multi-disciplinary team (MDT):

- What expectations come with different roles in a service with different professional identities?
- How to facilitate collaboration
- Explore the impact of MDT working on confidentiality
- Coordination between local providers and the relationship with the local health service

This workshop will help you to:

1. Identify some key issues to consider when working with suicide in MDT
2. Encourage external and cross-team collaboration
3. Explore considerations relating to confidentiality when there is a risk of suicide
4. Encourage role flexibility while maintaining boundaries when working with suicide
5. Formalising reflective practice

As the Head of Counselling at the University of Cambridge, Geraldine Dufour oversees the provision of psychological support for the collegiate university, leading a large team of counsellors, CBT therapists, mindfulness teacher and mental health advisors. She is the Chair for BACP Universities & Colleges division and a past Chair of national group for

Heads of University Counselling Services (HUCS). Geraldine is a member on several national committees related to student mental health and wellbeing, a speaker at national conferences, a contributor to research, professional journals and newspapers. She taught on the MA in Counselling programs at Leicester and Birmingham Universities.

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## **Learning lessons: Saving young lives**

### **Ged Flynn**

This session will introduce the work of PAPYRUS and a sharing of resources to help participants address presentations of and concerns about young suicide.

This workshop will lead to:

1. Improved awareness of prevalence of young suicide
2. Improved awareness of sources of support for clients and professionals
3. Increased awareness of personal attitudes and behaviours relating to suicide mitigation
4. Reflection on what participants can do to prevent young suicide
5. Improved knowledge of where stigma comes from and how we can all reduce its impact

Ged Flynn is a member of HM Government National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group and its equivalent body in Wales. Ged has been CEO at PAPYRUS since 2010. He has a Masters in Pastoral Psychology and a particular interest in grief education and in tackling the stigma associated with suicide and bereavement.

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