Design in Mental Health

CONFERENCE | EXHIBITION | AWARDS

Share your Insight. Shape the Future of Mental Health Environments.

Speaker Prospectus

8-9 June 2027

Coventry Building Society Arena

Organisers

Design in Mental Health Network

Step Exhibitions

Why speak at Design in Mental Health?

Design in Mental Health is the annual conference, exhibition and awards event that brings together mental-health, healthcare, design and built-environment professionals to share evidence, expertise and innovation, helping create safer, more therapeutic environments that improve mental-health outcomes.

2026 Event Stats and Insights

- 61 NHS/Health Boards Represented (up from 41 in 2025)
- 18 different private healthcare providers were represented
- 16 charity health and social care service provider organisations represented (up from 9 in 2025)
- 2026 audience included: over 75 NHS Clinicians/Service Planners; over 100 Directors, Heads & Managers working in NHS Estates & Facilities and Capital Projects; over 100 Healthcare Architects

Shape change

Share insight. Showcase what works. Shape better practice. Join a passionate, cross-sector community driving better mental health environments

Experience More

Experience four dynamic theatres, including the Design & Digital Solutions Theatre, plus a dedicated workshop space for deeper learning

Future Shapers

A diverse, influential audience of healthcare, design, estates, construction and mental health professionals shaping the future of mental health environments

> "Coming over from Ireland for my first Design in Mental Health Conference was a great experience. I had never seen a gathering of all stakeholders involved in the design of mental health environments together before. It has left a lasting impression. Just because I'm not based in the UK did not matter; we all share the same hopes and dreams and challenges, and it was great to meet so many different people with different views."

Practice Development Facilitator & Mental Health Nurse, HSE WEST

The UK's Only Conference and Exhibition Dedicated to Mental Health Environment Design, Delivery and Management

Conference Themes

Share your insight, experience and ideas through engaging presentations, workshops and panel sessions. Our themes are designed to inspire, not limit, so your contribution can span multiple areas and showcase what matters most to your work.

For more details on each theme, please click here

> A great event, as always. Such relevance to the work I do and a unique network and opportunity to share ideas and exchange thoughts. Looking forward to next year already!
>
> *Director, Medical Architecture*

NEW for 2027
Housing, care and design for better living

Designing for better mental health in the community

Designing for belonging

Technology – Designing for human connection

Safer care through design – workforce, culture and wellbeing

Sustainability by design – resilient, adaptable and future-ready mental health environments

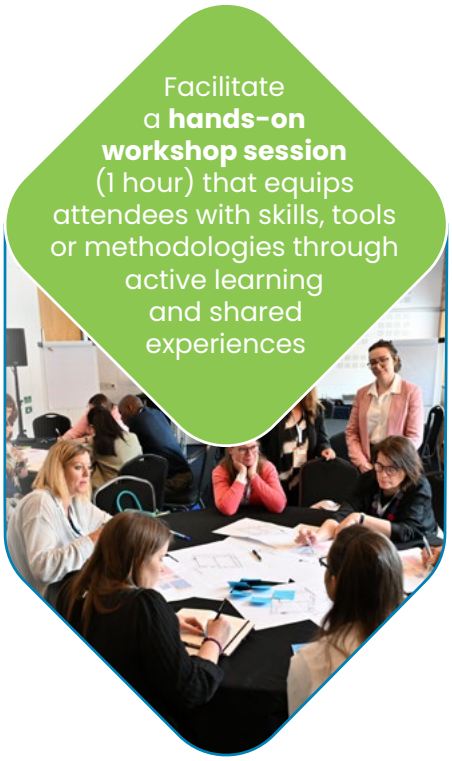
Design and digital solutions

Responding to crisis through design – urgent, acute and inpatient environments

What We Look for in Submissions

Where possible, submissions should demonstrate **co-production, meaningful involvement of people with lived experience and clear, transferable learning** for those working across mental health environments. We welcome both established evidence and honest, real-world insight, including challenges, unexpected outcomes and lessons learned.

Share your insights, research or innovations in a **solo or multi-presenter talk** (20 – 60 minutes) that inspires and informs



Facilitate a **hands-on workshop session** (1 hour) that equips attendees with skills, tools or methodologies through active learning and shared experiences

Organise a **collaborative panel session bringing together experts** on a particular topic, to explore complex challenges, emerging trends, or practical solutions (30 minutes)

We're particularly interested in submissions that demonstrate:

- **Lived experience and co-production** — how people with lived experience have shaped, informed or led the work.
- **Impact** — the difference made to people using services, those providing care, safety, wellbeing, experience or working practices.
- **Partnership and learning** — how teams, disciplines or sectors worked together and what others can take away.
- **Evidence & evaluation** — the research, feedback, data or evaluation that demonstrates impact.
- **Real-world insight** — what worked, what didn't, what you learned and what you would do differently.
- **Innovation & improvement** — new ideas, approaches, technologies or practical improvements that could shape better environments.

UK and international submissions are welcome, particularly those offering learning that can inspire and be applied across different settings and contexts.

Your Platform to Share, Connect & Influence

- **Raise your professional profile** and showcase your work, organisation, project or expertise to a **highly targeted specialist audience.**
- **Influence** practice and future thinking by sharing learning that can inform how mental health environments, services and projects are designed and delivered.
- **Connect directly** with decision-makers and influencers from the NHS, mental health services, estates and facilities, architecture, design, clinical practice, lived experience, academia and industry.
- **Extended visibility** beyond the conference itself, with selected sessions and speakers promoted for 5+ months across conference programmes, digital communications and social media including LinkedIn.
- **Build new professional connections** and collaborations with people working on similar challenges, projects and innovations across the UK and internationally.
- **A complimentary conference pass** for your speaking day, giving you access to the wider programme and opportunities to learn from other speakers and organisations.
- **Access to the Speaker's Lounge,** with complimentary lunch and refreshments provided.
- **Dedicated speaker support** with clear guidance throughout the process and AV support at the event.
- **Access to the Awards Ceremony**, 17:00 on Day 1.

Submit. Get Selected. Know the Costs.

There's no charge to submit a presentation proposal — and you can submit to multiple themes. You're welcome to make as many submissions as you like, provided each proposal offers distinct content.

Please note that submitting a proposal does not guarantee selection. All submissions will be reviewed by the Conference Advisory Group, and applicants will be contacted following the review.

Selected to Speak? You May Qualify for a Fee Waiver

If your presentation is selected, the Presenter Registration Fee of £475^{+VAT} will be waived if you meet any of the following criteria:

- Public sector employee
- Independent lived experience expert
- Employee of an organisation exhibiting at Design in Mental Health 2027
- Employee or nominated representative of a registered charity

What if I don't meet any of the criteria listed?

If none of the fee-waiver criteria apply, the standard £475^{+VAT} Presenter Registration Fee will be payable if your session is selected for the programme. This fee was introduced in 2026 to help support the Design in Mental Health Network to deliver DiMH's free-access model for NHS and public sector professionals.

This model has already significantly increased participation from this audience and helps us bring together a highly concentrated group of mental health decision-makers, clinicians, estates professionals and influencers — the very people many commercial organisations are looking to engage with.

For organisations not already supporting the event through exhibiting, the presenter registration fee contributes towards maintaining that model and securing access to this specialist audience.

It also includes a conference pass for the day of your presentation, lunch and refreshments, and access to the Speakers' Lounge. If exhibiting is also of interest, we'd be happy to discuss the available options and employees of exhibiting organisations who are selected to speak do not pay the Presenter Registration Fee.

Please note that the speaker fee is payable per speaker per appearance.

Key stages of the process:

As a registered charity, the Design in Mental Health Network (DIMHN) operates with extremely limited funding. Because we work hard to direct our resources toward our core mission, we are unable to offer travel or accommodation expenses for our speakers. We ask our speakers to cover these costs through their own organisations or budgets. To ensure our events remain inclusive, we reserve our very limited financial support almost exclusively for lived experience experts who do not have an organisation or employer to support their attendance. We are incredibly grateful to all our speakers, and your shared time and expertise are what make our work possible.

Contact Us

Presenting at Design in Mental Health is a powerful platform to share learning that shapes the future.

"The DiMH conference is always a must-attend experience if you work in the mental health sector as a designer, Trust, supplier or Lived Experience representative. It is so exciting every year to come together as a strong community with the same aim, to design environments that can support and improve the experience for every stakeholder. What makes DiMH stand out is the quality of the conversations it sparks. Open, honest exchanges between people who rarely share the same room. Whether you are a clinician, an architect, an NHS estates professional or someone with direct lived experience of mental health services, you leave feeling genuinely heard and energised. The programme consistently delivers thought-provoking speakers, real project case studies and practical insights you can take straight back to your work. Amazing work. Step's team is very caring and always runs a very smooth event, a real credit to everyone involved."

Director, FLOYD SLASKI ARCHITECTS

I'm in! Take me to the submission form ➜

If you have any more questions or need assistance with submitting a presentation proposal, please contact Laura Shadwell, Conference Manager.

laurashadwell@step-exhibitions.co.uk
Tel: 01892 518877

Design in Mental Health Network (DiMHN) is an independent UK charity dedicated to improving mental health outcomes through better design. The Design in Mental Health Conference is delivered in partnership with Step Exhibitions Ltd, a private, for-profit events company contracted to manage the operational and commercial aspects of the event. DiMHN receives a portion of the event's net surplus to support its charitable activities. The exact income received is reported in DiMHN's Annual Report.