

David Harling BEM

MSc, BA(Hons), BMed(Sci), PG Cert, Dip N.

Registered Learning Disability Nurse

Registered Mental Health Nurse

Independent Non-Medical Prescriber



Profile

David is a Registered Learning Disability Nurse and a Registered Mental Health Nurse. He has served in a senior capacity at local, regional, and national level and has over 35 years' experience working across the health and care sector.

David possesses a range of executive competencies and director level experience, which includes investigatory and procedural management, Clinical standards and governance, patient safety, strategic planning, individual service design, transformational leadership, and a broad range of expert clinical knowledge.

For the past 12 years David has served in a national profile within NHS England, holding positions as Transforming Care clinical lead, National Patient Safety lead for Learning Disability and Autism and latterly the National Deputy Director for Learning Disability Nursing. David is graduated to Master's level and in 2024 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to people with learning disabilities autistic people and their families.

David is a dependable and respected clinician and leader and prides himself on his integrity and his strong value base. He has exemplary communication and interpersonal skills and has a proven track record having served under the current and two former Chief Nursing Officers for England and having led several high-profile enquiries and reviews.

Knowledge Skills & Experience

- Commissioned by NHSE & the Winterbourne View Joint Ministerial Programme Board to undertake a high-profile case review of an individual subject to nine years in long term segregation.
- Commissioned by the Chief Nursing Officer for England to lead reviews of all the ex-residents of Winterbourne View.
- Created the original model and metrics for the national Care and Treatment Reviews (CTR's).
- Designed and launched the national patient safety tool for learning disability.
- Senior Responsible Officer for the design, delivery and oversight of the national Learning Disability Improvement Standards.
- Served in the role of clinical assurance lead for the national investigations following the deaths of vulnerable individuals whilst in NHS care.
- Served as expert clinician on the independent review into the death of Oliver McGowan and led the secondary assurance review to the independent review.
- Led on the original commission (post CIPOLD) for the LeDeR programme and the national advisory board for the premature deaths of people with a learning disability.

Knowledge Skills & Experience (cont.)

- Senior Responsible Officer for the production and publication of the 'All-England Plan for Learning Disability Nursing.
- Served as board member on a number of national boards, including the national Transforming Care delivery board, the National Autism board, the Inpatient Transformation Programme board, the Mental Capacity Act review board and the National Health and Care Partners delivery board.
- Served as expert advisor to the review of the Mental Health Act.
- Served as expert advisor to the post incident response board following the scandal at Whorlton Hall.
- Appointed as Regional Senior Clinical advisor in Learning Disability to the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health authority to implement the Darzi Healthy Ambitions strategy for Learning Disability.
- Served as core expert for responding to parliamentary questions, public enquiries, and discussion papers to the House of Lords.
- Commissioned to deliver a series of master classes for the Nursing Council of Ireland.
- Served as expert advisor on a range of national policy and strategy developments including the 'All Our Health' programme with the Department of Health, the Greenlight toolkit with the Kings Fund, ASOTP with National Offender Management Service, the 'Creating Caring Cultures' with the Foundation of Nursing Studies, various projects with the Royal College of Nursing, Valuing People Support Team, Royal College of Psychiatry, Challenging Behaviour Foundation.
- Served as specialist judge for Nursing Times, Nursing Standard and the British Journal of Nursing national awards.

Professional Qualifications

2018 The Quality, Service Improvement and Redesign (QSIR) programme - NHS Improvement
2015 Nye Bevan Programme for Executive Leaders – NHS Leadership Academy
2013 Post Graduate Diploma in Leadership & Quality Assurance – University of Huddersfield
2005 Independent Non- Medical Prescriber - University of Hull
2004 MSc Leadership & Change Management - Middlesex University - Classification 2:1 with Merit
1998 RMN Registered Mental Health Nurse - South Yorkshire College of Health Studies
1998 BMed(Sci) Mental Health Contemporary Practice - University of Sheffield - Class 2:1
1996 BA(Hons) Professional Studies in Learning Disability - University of Manchester - Class 2:1
1993 RNLD Registered Nurse Learning Disability - North Yorkshire College of Health Studies
1992 Professional Diploma in Nursing Studies (Learning Disability) - University of Ripon & York St John.
1988 BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care - Wakefield District College

Vocational Qualifications

2025 Expert Witness Training - Maggie Sargent & Associates
2011 SVR20/RSVP for Sexual offending programme delivery - Northern Training
2010 Risk Matrix 2000 accredited assessor - Humberside Probation Trust
2006 Understanding Westminster – Cumberledge Connections
2005 Applied Behavioural Analysis Practitioner training - Institute of Applied Behavioural Analysis
2004 NHS Clinical Leadership program- NHS Leadership Academy
2000 NHS Management Programme Trust 24 week programme
1996 ENB 997/998 Teaching & Assessing in Clinical Practice - University of Sheffield
1997 ENB Professional Supervision Program - Leeds University

Career History

National Deputy Director for Learning Disability Nursing
NHS England & Improvement May 2016 – Current

National Patient Safety Lead for Learning Disability
NHS England June 2013 – May 2016

National Quality and Safety Manager Transforming Care
NHS England – January 2013 – June 2013 (Secondment)

Consultant Nurse & Clinical Director
Humber NHS Foundation Trust – May 2002 – 2012

Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer
University of Hull - May 2002 - 2012

Regional Senior Clinical Advisor for Healthy Ambitions Strategy
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA – March 2009 – September 2011 (Secondment)

Clinical Nurse Specialist & Service Manager for Mental Health and Learning Disability Services
South West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust – December 1999 – May 2002

Charge Nurse Community Mental Health & Learning Disability Teams
Barnsley CPS NHS Trust – Feb 1996 – Dec 1999

Staff Nurse Community Learning Disability team (Behavioural Support)
Wakefield and Pontefract Community NHS Trust – Sept 1994 – Feb 1996

Senior Care Officer Community & Residential services
Wakefield Social Services – Jan 1987 – Sep 1991

Awards & Recognition

- Royal College of Nursing Learning Disability Nurse of the year
- Nursing Times Learning Disability Nursing of the Year - Highly commended award.
- Florence Nightingale international travel scholarship (United States)
- NIMHE National Positive Practice award.
- Foundation of Nursing Studies national innovation in practice award
- British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to people with learning disabilities autistic people and their families.
- Co-wrote a top ten hit 'Not so Manic Now' covered by the band Dubstar.

Memberships of Professional Bodies

Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)