

News story: This is Me Cumbria

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Sellafield Ltd joined other big businesses to back the 'This is Me' campaign, which has launched in Cumbria.

More than 120 business leaders attended the 'This is Me' event in Penrith today.

The new video features people from employers across the county to show people that anyone can suffer from mental health issues and that it's okay to talk.

'This is Me'

Adrian Simper, NDA's director of strategy and technology, said:

For years we have had a relentless focus on people's physical safety and well-being at work. But we have yet to give the same attention to people's minds.

The opportunity to make the workplace a more productive, safer and fulfilling place is too great to miss.

The 'This is Me' in Cumbria event is testament to the drive to continue raising awareness at a local level. We need to continue the momentum and work towards breaking the stigma around mental ill health.

Sellafield Ltd's equality, diversity and inclusion lead Alan Rankin, said:

We were delighted to help launch this campaign in Cumbria. This follows the [North West](#) launch last year.

We know that mental health at work is one of the biggest challenges faced by employers. This campaign creates a powerful way of allowing employees to share personal stories and experiences that enables colleagues to talk more openly about mental health.

The Cumbrian launch builds upon our year of activity to promote mental health and well-being and coincides with 'Time to Talk' day, which is an annual event to encourage people to speak about their mental well-being.

Rob Johnston, chief executive of the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, hosted the launch event. He said:

Mental ill health is the leading cause of sickness absence, costing

employers an average of £1,035 per employee per year.

It's in businesses' interests to tackle this issue and that's a message the chamber has been pushing by offering toolkits, advice and a podcast for employers.

We hope that, through 'This is Me', we can reinforce this message and confront the stigma around mental ill health.

Employees are invited to join events this week and raise money for mental health charities.

The 'This is Me' campaign challenges the stigma around mental health at work and aims to break the culture of silence by supporting people to tell their own stories.

The campaign was started by the Lord Mayor's Appeal in the City of London, in association with Barclays, and is being rolled out across the country.

Barclays is backing the Cumbrian launch alongside the NDA, Sellafield Ltd, BAE Systems, Cumbria Police and Cumbria Chamber of Commerce.

Alan Rankin added:

Around 1 in 4 people in the UK experience a mental health problem each year, and by 2030 the estimated cost of staff mental health related issues nationally is set to rise to £32.7 billion.

As responsible businesses we all have an obligation to get involved and take an active interest in the wellbeing of our staff whilst creating environments where those in need can get the help and support required both now and in the future.

[Press release: A chance to find out more about the Leeds flood defence plans](#)

People who live and work in west Leeds are being invited to come along to a couple of drop-in events this month to find out more about proposals for the next phase of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme.

They will have the opportunity to have a look at plans and talk to members of the project team responsible for developing the second phase of the flood

defences being proposed to protect communities upstream of the city centre.

The events will be held between 2pm and 8pm on Wednesday 13 February and Tuesday 26 February at Milford Sports Club, Beecroft St, Leeds LS5 3AS. Visitors will have the chance to ask questions and get more information about the proposed defences and accessibility works such as new pedestrian bridges.

The Environment Agency has worked alongside Leeds City Council to submit a planning application which will invest £112.1 million in flood prevention measures along the River Aire catchment.

A range of measures have been put forward to reduce the risk of flooding along a 14-kilometre stretch, including the A65 Kirkstall Corridor which was badly hit by the impact of Storm Eva at Christmas 2015 and ending at Apperley Bridge, Bradford. In addition to this a natural flood management programme is proposed across the catchment, with pilot projects already underway.

The plans feature measures such as new defence walls, embankments and a large flood storage area. They include four key areas of Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills, Kirkstall Abbey and Kirkstall Meadows, Apperley Bridge and Calverley.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Leeds City Council executive member for regeneration, transport and planning said:

Offering protection and reassurance to people in Kirkstall and surrounding areas that were so badly affected by the Christmas floods of 2015 is a key element of the next phase of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme. These plans for a range of measures have been drawn up not just to reduce the risk of flooding, but very much with the environment in mind.

It is very important that local residents and businesses are aware of what we are planning to do and how it will work, so I'd encourage as many as possible to come to these drop-in sessions to ask questions and discuss it with us.

Adrian Gill, flood risk manager at the Environment Agency said:

These drop in sessions are a great opportunity for people to get a good understanding of what is being planned to protect their local community.

During this event, the joint Leeds City Council and Environment Agency team managing the construction of the next phase of the Leeds flood defence will be available to talk to visitors about any concerns they may have and provide clarification about anything that they are uncertain about.

Although Leeds City Council has submitted the proposals for

approval by planning officers, the detailed design of the scheme has not yet been decided and we will be seeking valuable feedback from both residents and businesses at these events and at further stages of the process.

These events follow on from a series of drop-in sessions held in Kirkstall, Horsforth, Rodley and Apperley Bridge areas of Leeds in October 2017.

The plans which will be on display include both parts of the two-step process that has been developed to give a one-in-200-year level of enhanced protection against flooding for Leeds, helping to better protect 1,485 homes and 370 businesses. If approved, work to deliver the first step, a one-in-100 year level of protection, is expected to start this summer.

The scheme also incorporates a flagship catchment-wide natural flood management programme. Leeds City Council and the Environment Agency will work with partners and landowners across the catchment to deliver a range of measures, such as the creation of new woodland and other natural features. These will help reduce and mitigate the flow of rainwater into the river and help reduce the impacts of climate change.

Members of the planning committee are expected to meet to discuss the application at the end of March.

[For more details](#)

[News story: OISC's CPD scheme](#)

The OISC CPD Scheme is not prescriptive as to how much or little CPD activity is undertaken by authorised advisers, but a principle based scheme which focuses on the outcomes of learning and development. It places the responsibility on advisers and organisations to demonstrate to the OISC that they are taking action to remain fit and competent in the areas they are authorised to operate in.

Compliance with CPD

All authorised immigration advisers are expected to demonstrate that they comply with the Commissioner's CPD requirements. This includes advisers registered at all levels and categories.

CPD is training you take to keep your skills and knowledge up to date – you and the registered organisation you work with decide how you do it . CPD is essential in maintaining your fitness and competence and improving the service that you provide to your clients.

As an authorised adviser, you can take CPD in different ways. For example, you can:

- update your listening and advising skills
- go to local or national meetings or seminars
- research developments in immigration and asylum law or practice
- spend time developing your business skills
- go on formal courses
- spend time on the internet carrying out research; or
- network with other immigration advisers

Plan your CPD

CPD is an ongoing process for all advisers. Registered organisations should work with advisers to [plan](#) what their CPD should be. Each organisation can decide what works best for them and should review their CPD activity; an annual review is recommended.

Record your CPD

The CPD you take should relate to the immigration advice or services that your organisation provides or intends to provide. In order to plan and keep track of your CPD activities we advise that you keep a [record](#), with supporting material/evidence.

Your organisation is responsible for keeping track of your CPD compliance in order to make an annual CPD declaration.

Annual Declaration

Organisations apply to the OISC for registration and for continued registration and as part of this process they sign a declaration confirming that their advisers will comply with the CPD requirements.

Help with CPD requirements

We have produced a booklet that offers guidance on how advisers can carry out CPD activity. This [booklet](#) helps in showing how advisers can comply with CPD requirements and show they are fit and competent. A CPD Learning Development Plan and a [CPD Learning and Development Record](#) can also be downloaded to help plan and keep a track of your activities.

Monitoring

OISC caseworkers will review registered organisations' compliance with the CPD requirements:

- during a premises audit
- as part of a complaint investigation; or
- by dip sampling

Failing to show compliance with CPD

You or your organisation will fail to show compliance with the CPD requirements if:

- there is no evidence that CPD was planned;
- there is no evidence that the CPD plan was followed; or
- the planned CPD activity was not relevant to the adviser or their organisation in terms of providing

immigration advice or services.

If your organisation fails to show compliance with the CPD requirements, we will discuss this with them. We may also make specific recommendations about future CPD activity.

Where you or your organisation's failure to comply with the CPD requirements has resulted in you failing to provide fit and competent advice or services we may:

- require you to immediately take specific training or development
- ask you to retake a competence assessment
- reduce your registered advice Level or restrict the categories of advice you can give (this may affect the registration of your organisation too); or
- withdraw you or your organisations registration

Exceptions

If you have any questions please read this [booklet](#) for further guidance or contact your caseworker.

[Press release: Three new Cabinet Office Non-Executive Board Members announced](#)

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, David Lidington, has today appointed Paula Vennells CBE, Karen Blackett OBE and Anand Aithal as the latest Non-Executive Board Members for the Cabinet Office.

They have been appointed for a three year period, providing independent advice, support and scrutiny. They will work with officials and ministers on official Cabinet Office business including the work on EU Exit and the running of government

They join the existing Non-Executive Board Members, Sir Ian Cheshire, Mike Ashley and Catherine Brown, to help deliver an ambitious agenda in government.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Rt Hon David Lidington, said:

Non-Executive Directors offer a wide range of talent and unique perspectives, ensuring that the Civil Service is well placed to deliver the government's ambitious agenda.

I am delighted that Paula Vennells, Karen Blackett and Anand Aithal will be joining the board – they bring a wealth of business expertise and I look forward to working closely with them.

Paula Vennells CBE

Paula Vennells started her career with Unilever and L’Oreal. She became the Chief Executive of Post Office Limited in 2012. She was Group Commercial Director for Whitbread Plc and held directorships in sales and marketing with several of the UK’s largest retailers, including Dixons Stores Group and Argos.

She is a Non-Executive Director of Morrisons Plc, a member of the government’s Financial Inclusion Policy Forum and of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group for the Church of England. She’s been a Trustee for the Hymns Ancient and Modern Group and a member of the Future High Street Forum.

She received her CBE in the 2019 New Year Honours List for services to the Post Office and to charity.

Karen Blackett OBE

Karen Blackett OBE is a business leader with 25 years of experience in the marketing communications industry. As UK Country Manager for WPP, the global creative transformation company based in 112 countries, she oversees WPP’s second largest market and the 14,000 people working across its operating brands in the UK. She is Chairwoman of WPP’s MediaCom, the largest media agency in the UK with billings over £1.3 billion.

Karen was a DIT Business Ambassador for No.10, is one of four external advisors helping to diversify the Civil Service, and was appointed Race Equality Business Champion by the Prime Minister as part of the Race at Work Charter in October 2018, helping businesses address inequality at all levels.

Karen is also a non-executive for Creative England, The MOBO Trust and The Creative Industry Federation, and in November 2018 she became Chancellor of the University of Portsmouth.

Karen received an OBE in 2014 for services to media and communications, and in 2019 she was honoured by the professional body, IPA, in recognition of her outstanding services to the advertising industry.

Anand Aithal

Anand Aithal is an entrepreneur with expertise in professional services organisation, service delivery, financial technology and the economics of developing countries.

He is a board member of Lifescale Ltd, a financial technology firm. He is a trustee of Restless Development and a trustee of Aldridge Education.

Anand was a co-founder of Amba Investment Services Ltd, a leading provider of data analysis services to the financial services industry. Amba was subsequently sold to Moody's Inc.

Previously, Anand had been a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs.

He has extensive business experience in international and emerging markets, having previously worked in multiple locations in Asia, North America and Central America.

[News story: Minister Harriett Baldwin visits Ukraine](#)

During a visit to Ukraine, Minister Baldwin will meet representatives from government and civil society and see first-hand the positive impact that the UK is having on the humanitarian situation and Anti-Corruption efforts in the country.

While in Ukraine Minister Baldwin will announce that the UK is increasing funding this year by £2.8m for humanitarian support to the country as well as £3.5m for further peacebuilding activities, including supporting conflict-affected populations and helping to address gender-based violence.

The UK's support has already helped to create mine action legislation and standards in Ukraine. And with UK assistance, the HALO Trust has made over 2.5 million square metres of land safe from explosive remnants of warfare, saving lives.

Minister Harriett Baldwin said:

I am delighted to be visiting Ukraine to discuss a range of humanitarian and political issues with government and civil society representatives. I look forward to attending a demining demonstration by the HALO Trust, who carry out vital work in keeping people safe from landmines and other explosive hazardous threats. I will also meet social support teams who work with survivors of gender based violence and internally displaced people. Their work is often harrowing but critical in supporting families who have suffered the consequences of conflict.

Ukraine also continues to face significant challenges in delivering the reforms that are needed to improve ordinary Ukrainians' lives.

Ukraine must stay the course to deliver its vital reform agenda and fight attempts to derail it. Many of the right steps have been made, however there is still much work to do. That is why the UK government remains committed to helping Ukraine combat corruption, including through support to the National Anti-Corruption Bureau and funding to the Transparency and Accountability of Public Administration and Services (TAPAS) project.

The UK is a major donor to Ukraine and provides over £35 million of support, which includes assistance to combat corruption and carry out economic and governance reforms. The UK also provides vital humanitarian support to communities affected by the conflict and is the top donor to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The UK is also one of the leading donors in Ukraine supporting survivors of gender-based violence, a problem often exacerbated by conflict. UK aid in this area includes funding shelters, an emergency national hotline and psychosocial, legal and medical assistance to survivors.

Notes to Editors:

- A full list of the UK funded projects in Ukraine in the financial year 2018/2019 can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-programme-assistance-to-ukraine-2018-2019> (ENGLISH)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-programme-assistance-to-ukraine-2018-2019.uk> (UKRAINIAN)
- With UK funding, 212 Mine Risk Education Sessions (MRE) were delivered to target communities in this financial year alone. These sessions reached a total of 9,565 beneficiaries: 2,575 boys, 2,326 girls, 2,256 men and 2,408 women.
- Since the outset of UK support in 2015, 88,747 survivors of gender based violence have accessed shelters, received support from psychosocial mobile support team or received advice from our hotline.
- More than 27 gender-focussed caucuses have now been established in local councils across Ukraine, as part of a UK Good Governance Fund project on women's political participation with NDI. Gender-focussed caucuses support increased involvement of women in politics, and a gender-sensitive approach to policy-making and budgeting.
- The £3.5m funding uplift comes from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, which supports security, defence, peacekeeping, peace-building and stability activity across the world. This funding is in addition to the £14m the CSSF already provides in Ukraine.

- The £2.8m funding uplift comes from DFID's Humanitarian contribution.