



UKHLS
UK Healthcare and
Life Sciences Innovation

A background image showing several hands clasped together in a supportive grip, overlaid with a series of concentric white circles on a dark blue background.

Building a Trauma Responsive Nation

**Parliamentary Policy
Roundtable Report**

In partnership with:

**West Yorkshire
Health and Care Partnership**



Contents

Forewords	2
Why Trauma Responsive Practice Matters Now	2
Working Together to Become Trauma Responsive	4
Executive Summary	6
What the Roundtable Found	6
What Participants Agreed	7
About the Roundtable	8
Participants and Contributors	9
Full Attendee List	10
Context	12
Why Trauma Matters Now	12
Trauma as a Cross-sector Issue	13
Why the North of England Featured so Prominently	18
Key Themes From the Discussion	19
Trauma is a National Public Policy Issue, Not a Niche Specialist Issue	19
Lived Experience Shows the Human Cost of Inaction	24
From Adversity to Opportunity: the Case for Prevention and Resilience	24
The North of England is Already Demonstrating Leadership	25

Greater Manchester – Trauma Responsive Reform at Regional Scale	26
Trauma Informed is Not Enough: Systems Must Become Trauma Responsive	30
Schools are a Critical Frontline: High Expectations With Emotional Awareness	30
Trauma Affects Adults and Workforces Too	30
Race, Inequality, and Structural Trauma Must Not be Overlooked	31
Funding, Fragmentation, and Lack of National Backing Remain Major Barriers	31
West Yorkshire – Building a Trauma Responsive System	32
What Parliament can Do	36
Raise Awareness Across Parliament	36
Embed Trauma Across Legislation and Policy	37
Support a National Strategy for England	38
Use Parliament as a Convening and Championing Space	38
Strengthen the Practical Policy Case	39
North East and North Cumbria – Developing a Regional Trauma Informed Framework	40
Areas of Emerging Consensus and Recommendations	44
Conclusion	51
About Us	52
References	53



The Parliamentary Roundtable was hosted by Paul Davies, MP for Colne Valley

Forewords

Why Trauma Responsive Practice Matters Now

Across Parliament and across the country, there is growing recognition that trauma responsive practice is not a niche issue for a single service or sector. It is a national issue that touches every part of public life, from health and education to policing, justice, employment, and community life. Trauma does not recognise departmental boundaries, political ideologies, or geographic borders. It affects individuals, families, and communities everywhere, and our public services are increasingly dealing with its consequences every day.

The case for trauma responsive practice has never been stronger. We are living in an increasingly uncertain world, shaped by economic pressure, social instability, and global conflict. These pressures are not abstract; they are felt in our communities, in our schools, in our workplaces, and in our public services. If we are serious about prevention, early intervention, and long-term reform, we must also be serious about understanding trauma and responding to it properly. Trauma responsive practice is both compassionate and a practical, evidence-based approach that can improve outcomes, reduce long-term costs and build stronger, more resilient communities.

One of the most important aspects of the discussions reflected in this report is the extent to which this agenda already commands cross-party support. The parliamentary roundtable and reception brought together representatives from different political parties, different professions, and different sectors – all united by a shared understanding that trauma affects every part of society and therefore requires a whole-system response. This is not a party-political issue. It is a human, public service, and, increasingly, national policy issue. The fact that leaders from health, local government, policing, academia, and the voluntary sector are working together on this agenda demonstrates that meaningful change will only happen through collaboration across traditional boundaries.

The discussions also focused heavily on the North of England, and rightly so. As a Member of Parliament in West Yorkshire, I know the North of England faces significant challenges, including higher levels of socio-economic and health inequalities – with significant levels of adverse childhood experiences. However, it is also leading the way in developing trauma responsive approaches, with pioneering work taking place across West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Humber and North Yorkshire, and beyond. These areas are demonstrating what can be achieved when local leaders, public services, and communities work together around a shared vision. The North of England, therefore, provides not only a case for change but a model for how change can be delivered, locally led, partnership-based, and grounded in lived experience and evidence.

What became clear throughout both the roundtable and the reception is that the evidence base already exists. We understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences. We understand the links between trauma and long-term health, social and economic outcomes. We understand the importance of early intervention, trusted relationships, and community support. The sessions demonstrated that we no longer need to test whether trauma responsive practice works; we must now move from evidence to action and implementation.

That is the challenge now facing policymakers, public services, and communities alike. We must ensure that the learning, innovation, and best practice already emerging across the North of England and the whole country are not lost, but instead are embedded, scaled and supported through national policy and local leadership. This will require coordination, leadership, resource, and a long-term commitment to prevention and system change.

The discussions in Parliament, and captured in this report, demonstrate that if we get this right, trauma responsive practice has the potential not only to improve individual lives but to strengthen public services, reduce long-term demand and build healthier, more resilient communities across the country.

The task now is to move from conversation to action.

Paul Davies MP
Member of Parliament for Colne Valley
Chair, All-Party Parliamentary
Group for Tackling Loneliness
and Connected Communities





The Building a Trauma Informed Nation Roundtable and Reception was expertly chaired by Tanya Arnold

Working Together to Become Trauma Responsive

The discussions captured in this report are rooted in a simple but powerful idea: if we understand trauma, and if we respond to it properly, we can change lives. Throughout the roundtable and the reception that followed, we heard powerful personal testimonies, compelling evidence, and practical examples of change already happening across communities, public services, and regions. Together, they tell a powerful story that trauma is not a marginal issue affecting a small number of people. It is a widespread reality that shapes health, education, behaviour, relationships, and life chances across our society.

One of the most important messages from the discussions was that trauma responsive practice is not about a single service or a single intervention. It is about culture, relationships, and systems. It is about how public services work together; how organisations treat their staff, as well as the people they support; and how communities themselves are involved in shaping solutions. Again and again, we heard that the shift required is from asking, “What is wrong with you?” to asking, “What has happened to you?” That shift sounds simple, but in practice, it requires profound change across systems, structures, and professional cultures.

A second clear message from the session was that this is not an issue that can be solved by one sector alone. Trauma touches every part of public life, health, education, policing, housing, employment, and community life. The people affected by trauma do not live their lives in organisational silos, and therefore, our response cannot sit in silos either. What we saw in the examples shared from across the North of England was the power of partnership: integrated care systems (ICS) working with local



The discussions at the roundtable and reception hope to ignite a national approach to trauma-informed care

Conclusion

The roundtable and reception brought together parliamentarians, system leaders, practitioners, researchers, and people with lived experience to examine the case for trauma responsive practice and to consider what is required to move from local innovation to national implementation. Across the discussion, the case for trauma responsive reform emerged as both compelling and well established.

Participants heard powerful lived experience testimony, strong academic and economic evidence, and practical examples of implementation already underway across multiple regions, particularly in the North of England. The discussion demonstrated that trauma is not a niche issue affecting a small number of people, but a national public policy issue that shapes health, education, policing, justice, employment, and community life. It is both a moral issue, because of the human cost of trauma and adversity, and a systems issue, because of the long-term impact on public services, workforce sustainability, and the wider economy.

The roundtable also made clear that the challenge is no longer to prove the link between trauma and long-term outcomes. The evidence base already exists. The challenge now is implementation, aligning policy, supporting systems, developing the workforce, embedding lived experience, and providing the national leadership required to scale, sustain and normalise trauma responsive practice.

Participants emphasised that England is not starting from zero. Across the North of England in particular, partnerships between health systems, local authorities, schools, police, public health teams, and voluntary and community organisations are already demonstrating what trauma responsive systems can look like in practice. These areas are generating evidence, building workforce capability, and developing scalable models that could directly inform national policy and wider rollout.

The question, therefore, is no longer whether trauma matters, but whether national policy will match the seriousness, urgency, and practical progress already visible across parts of England, particularly in the North of England, where the strongest foundations for national implementation are already emerging.

Building a trauma responsive nation will require leadership, long-term commitment, and cross-sector alignment, but the foundations already exist, the evidence is clear, and participants were unequivocal that the time to act is now.

England now has a genuine opportunity to become the first nation to build a trauma responsive approach through regional leadership, cross-government alignment, and prevention-led reform.

About Us



Independent, cross-party, and not-for-profit – as a policy institute, Curia turns policy into practice as the UK's first “do tank”.

Curia hosts research groups, including:

- Health, Care and Life Sciences Research Group
- Clean Energy and Environment Research Group
- Housing, Transport, and Infrastructure Research Group
- Foreign Policy and Defence Research Group

As well as hosting ad hoc investigations into contemporary, relevant policy topics, Curia provides evidence-based consultancy services, due diligence, and socio-economic and environmental analysis. Research groups share best practice through partner publishing and broadcasting agency Chamber UK.

Curia, as the publisher of this policy report, retains full editorial control over its content. The editorial team at Curia has exercised autonomy and impartiality in shaping the report's narrative, analysis, and conclusions. The sponsors have not been involved in the decision-making process or influenced the substance of the report.

www.curiauk.com



From the Council to the Commons, Chamber UK publishes and broadcasts political insight and analysis from around the UK: The journal partners with policy institute Curia UK to communicate case studies as they turn policy into practice.

Chamber UK provides communities with a voice. Insightful broadcasts develop insight with community leaders in civil society, business, local, regional and national government.

To receive the latest insights, and invitations to our exclusive events and webinars, register here.

www.chamberuk.com



UK Healthcare and Life Sciences Innovation (UKHLSI) is a membership organisation representing companies at the forefront of healthcare and life sciences innovation. Our members are united by a shared goal: to ensure that innovation reaches patients, practitioners, and the wider UK economy faster.

www.ukhlsi.co.uk



© Copyright 2026: Curia UK.
Published April 2026.
Curia, Golden Cross House, 8 Duncannon St, London WC2N 4JF.
Email: team@curiauk.com

www.curiauk.com