

Society of Health Play Specialists

Leadership Forum

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Society of Health Play Specialists Leadership Forum provides national strategic leadership for the profession. The Forum brings together Health Play Specialists in leadership roles or with leadership responsibilities, to collaboratively shape and deliver a shared workforce vision that strengthens leadership capability, supports service sustainability, and advances professional standardisation.

The Forum aligns its work with the Health Play Development Workforce Strategy (2024), alongside SoHPS policy, professional standards, and the Play Well Toolkit as key guiding frameworks. Through this collective and policy-informed approach, the group will support progression in leadership development pathways, workforce transformation, job description frameworks, recruitment strategy, professional profiling, and greater consistency of role definition and practice across services.

By working collaboratively at a national level, the Forum aims to position Health Play Specialists as an essential and strategically recognised profession within the wider healthcare workforce, ensuring high-quality, equitable play provision for children and young people.

2. Aims

- Provide a strategic national leadership network.
- Produce a SoHPS national play strategy
- Share best practice and service development initiatives.
- Support implementation of national guidance and professional standards.
- Contribute to workforce development, sustainability, and succession planning.
- Establish and contribute to working groups aligned to agreed priorities.

3. Membership

Eligibility

- Registered, qualified Health Play Specialists.
- Practitioners in recognised leadership roles (e.g., Lead, Senior, Principal).
- Practitioners with defined leadership responsibilities (e.g., workforce, supervision, service development, strategic implementation).

- Practitioners who have no professional leadership within their service and act in a leadership capacity in relation the progressing health play services

Members must be in good professional standing and commit to active participation in Forum activities.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- Attend and actively contribute to meetings.
- Participate in relevant working groups.
- Take ownership of agreed actions and follow them up within agreed timescales.
- Contribute to the delivery of agreed objectives.
- Share relevant learning within their own services.

The Forum is chaired by the SoHPS Workforce Lead, supported by a Vice Chair and the SoHPS admin lead, who will set agendas, facilitate meetings, provide strategic oversight, and ensure alignment with SoHPS objectives.

5. Meetings

- Meetings will take place online (frequency to be agreed).
- The Forum will aim to hold one in-person meeting per year tbc
- Agendas will be circulated in advance.
- A summary of key discussions and actions will be shared following meetings.

6. Governance and Confidentiality

The Leadership Forum operates under the auspices of the Society of Health Play Specialists and aligns with its strategic priorities. The Forum is advisory in nature unless specific authority is formally delegated.

The Forum aims to provide a trusted and professionally respectful space for strategic discussion, shared challenge, and peer support.

Meeting summaries and minutes are intended for Forum members and are not to be circulated externally without prior agreement of the Chair. Members may share key themes, learning, and agreed outputs within their own organisations where appropriate, while maintaining professional discretion and respecting the confidentiality of discussions.

7. Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually to ensure continued relevance and alignment with professional and organisational priorities.