



## Important announcement

### A fond farewell to Margaret Coats

Margaret Coats, CNHC's current Chief Executive & Registrar, is retiring after 13 years with us and her last day will be 5 December 2025. Margaret moved from the private to the public sector in 1987 and prior to joining us her previous roles included:

- Head of the NHS Open Learning Unit
- Chief Executive, the Occupational Standards Council for Health & Social Care
- Chief Executive & Registrar, the General Chiropractic Council.

Margaret often says it is her passion for healthcare standards and public protection that drew her to CNHC. Plus, a family experience of the benefits of complementary therapy for Post-Polio Syndrome.

The CNHC Board and staff team express their thanks to Margaret for all her hard work and commitment and wish her a very happy retirement.

### CNHC's new Chief Executive

CNHC is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Joanne Shaw, from early 2026.

Joanne is a big advocate for complementary and natural healthcare and believes that it plays an important role in supporting both physical health and mental wellbeing. Having worked for 17 years in senior positions in the NHS public sector, and prior to that in the private sector, Joanne brings a range of experience in strategic leadership, governance, and financial management. Holding a non-executive role as Lay Director of the British Acupuncture Council has also provided Joanne with direct experience of accreditation, membership engagement, and championing professional standards in complementary healthcare.

Iain McInnes, CNHC Chair, said: "We are thrilled to welcome Joanne to CNHC as our new Chief Executive. We look forward to working closely with Joanne in the New Year in the challenging and exciting times ahead."

You can read the announcement in full [here](#).



## Spotlight on CNHC registrants

### CNHC registrant Katharine Tate meets HRH The Princess Royal at UK's First Microbiome & Gut Health Festival and launches a school programme on the gut microbiome, nutrition and wellbeing

CNHC registered Nutritional Therapist and BANT member, Katharine Tate, who also sits on CNHC's Profession Specific Board (PSB) for Nutritional Therapy, had the honour of meeting HRH The Princess Royal at *Inside Out*, the UK's first festival dedicated to microbiome and gut health. Katharine worked with Global Healthcare Projects (GHP) as Education Project Lead, playing an instrumental role in the festival's success and showcasing to the public the expertise of microbiome experts including several CNHC and BANT practitioners.

In collaboration with GHP, Katharine Tate has also launched *The Micro Matrix*, a free, curriculum-mapped programme for primary schools (KS1–KS2). The six-hour programme includes interactive lessons, assemblies, teacher guides, and make-at-home recipes, all designed to link classroom learning to the science of the gut microbiome. Resources are fully aligned with the National Curriculum and available online.

[Find out more](#)



## Update to therapy descriptor

The descriptors are the wording agreed with the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) for each of the professions on our Register that can be used by CNHC registrants in their [advertising](#).

We have recently updated the descriptor for [Craniosacral Therapy](#).

[Find out about all the recent updates](#)



## Job and volunteering opportunities for CNHC registrants

**Crisis** are seeking Wellbeing Volunteers to deliver complementary therapies such as Aromatherapy, Craniosacral Therapy, Massage (including Indian Head Massage), Reflexology, Reiki, Shiatsu and Yoga Therapy to people experiencing homelessness over the Christmas period. Find out more [here](#).

The **Macmillan Cancer Support Centre at Ashford Hospital**, Surrey is looking for complementary therapists practising Massage Therapy, Reflexology, Aromatherapy, Microsystems Acupuncture, Reiki and Yoga Therapy. Find out more [here](#).

**The Mulberry Centre** is currently looking for a Reiki practitioner who would be prepared to volunteer for half a day weekly at Meadow House Hospice, Ealing Hospital. Find out more [here](#).

**St Richard's Hospice** in Worcester are looking for volunteer complementary therapists practising at least two of the following disciplines: Aromatherapy, Reflexology, or Massage Therapy. Find out more [here](#).

## Contact CNHC

Email: [info@cnhc.org.uk](mailto:info@cnhc.org.uk) | Phone: 020 3327 2720 | Website: [www.cnhc.org.uk](http://www.cnhc.org.uk)

Address: CNHC, PO BOX 482, Bexleyheath DA7 9QB

