

Neil Sanyal – Biography

Neil Sanyal is a social worker and AMHP. He works part-time for Hampshire County Council in the AMHP Hub. He graduated in 1991 with a CQSW from Liverpool John Moores University and has been a qualified social worker for 34 years and an ASW/AMHP for 32 of those years.

He was heavily involved with the national Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Strategy from 2004 – 2010 in Hampshire.

He has been involved with race equality and anti-racist initiatives throughout his career including helping to run voluntary sector projects through management committee involvement both in Liverpool and Hampshire, including helping to set up and run the Mary Seacole House Black Mental Health Centre in Liverpool in the early 1990s and advising the Forest Bus Gypsy Traveller Project in the New Forest from 2007 to 2013. He was heavily involved in Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW)'s part of the National Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Strategy from 2004 – 2010 and delivered training to universities and groups of health and social care staff across the county, led practice groups, and deputised for the HIOW Coordinator at national level meetings.

Since retiring as a full-time social worker in 2019, Neil has developed an interest in Allyship for Race Equality and has delivered training sessions on this topic for AMHPs, social workers and social work students around the country since March 2022. This has included Winchester and Bournemouth Universities, West Berkshire, North London Boroughs, Pan-Yorkshire AMHP Conference, Hampshire AMHP Forum and Cumbria AMHP Forum. Neil has been a coopted member of the National AMHP Leads Network Steering Group since April 2022 to develop anti-racist practice, and the National NHSE PCREF (Patients and Carers Race Equality Framework) Monitoring Group, which is developing anti-racist practice in NHS Mental Health services across England and Wales.

Neil defines himself as someone of mixed heritage from White British and South Asian backgrounds.