

NWSF Expression of Interest

The National Water Safety Forum (NWSF) is seeking to expand its Coordinating Group to help improve diversity and inclusivity and fill gaps identified in current membership.

About the NWSF

The NWSF is a UK-focused, voluntary network, working together in order to reduce water-related deaths and associated harm.

The NWSF was established in 2004 following a Government review into water safety. It sought to bring together a number of pre-existing national groups with the ambition of creating a 'one-stop shop' for the prevention of drowning and water safety harm in the UK, recognising the broad range of existing stakeholder groups, their respective contributions, and their own brands and values, often towards charitable objectives.

UK Drowning Prevention Strategy

On average, around 400 people drown around the UK every year and a further 200 take their own lives on our waters. Many of these deaths are preventable and we believe more can be done to reduce this loss of life.

In 2016, in line with advice from the World Health Organization, the NWSF released the [UK Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016 -2026](#). Its key aims are **to reduce accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by 50% by 2026, and reduce risk amongst the highest risk populations, groups and communities.**

Our Purpose: Prevent accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by working in partnership to ensure consistent guidance for the safe enjoyment and management of activities

Our Aim: Reduce accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by 50% by 2026 and reduce risk amongst the highest risk populations, groups and communities

Priority targets include:

- Every child should have the opportunity to learn to swim and receive water safety education at primary school and where required at Key Stage 3
- Every community with water risks should have a community-level risk assessment and water safety plan
- To better understand water-related self-harm
- Increase awareness of everyday risks in, on and around the water
- All recreational activity organisations should have a clear strategic risk assessment and plans that address key risks.

What we are looking for

The NWSF are now mid-way through the UK DPS and we would like to broaden the representation on the group to help ensure a wide range of views and promote new thinking that would help us take the work of the Forum to the next level.

Currently we are seeking to fill two roles in the Coordinating Group:

- An independent person/Lay role - affiliated to no organisation/agency currently on the NWSF CG
- A Public Health representative – background or current role in public health

Ideally we are seeking someone with the following skillset:

- Interest in water safety/drowning prevention or a new/ unique perspective to the issue
- Experience of networking with external partners
- Strategic working/planning

How to apply

If you would like to express your interest in either role, please email info@nationalwatersafety.org.uk with the following information:

- Name of organisation and name/position of the suggested representative
- Role applied for
- Evidence of your role in drowning prevention and evidence in contribution to the aims of the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy
- Suggested resources and expertise available to the NWSF
- Expected contribution and benefits to the NWSF
- Any known conflicts of interest

Process

Your application will be presented to the NWSF Co-ordinating Group, who will follow the membership process outlined in the NWSF's [Terms of Reference](#).

A decision will take place by vote as outlined in the current Terms of Reference. Successful organisations will be notified and officially invited to join the Coordinating Group by the NWSF Chair.

Further contact

If you want to ask a specific question regarding the roles or the process, please contact info@nationalwatersafety.org.uk

