



WISHING EVERYONE A PEACEFUL FESTIVE SEASON, & A HEALTHY NEW YEAR

FROM US ALL AT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO CHARLIE & THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our dedicated volunteers and staff team have organised a meeting rota for over the festive season.

We understand that a lot of people can find this time of year challenging, so we're providing a meeting each day to support you.

Just follow this QR code to find our festive timetable and access our meetings via our website.



A massive thank you to everyone involved in providing these meetings!

As we approach the end of the year, myself and the Board of Trustees want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to every participant and facilitator of the UK SMART Recovery community. Your courage, commitment, and support for one another continue to inspire us every day.

On behalf of the SMART Recovery team we wish you a festive season filled with hope, peace, and connection. Together, we look forward to building an even stronger recovery community in 2026.

Stay Connected, Stay SMART.

Warmest wishes,

Charlie Orton (CEO) & Derek Heim (Chairman).



The UKSR Team During 2025



There have been a number of changes to the UKSR team this year, or at least in the second half of it!

Starting in June, we welcomed Emma Sharp-Lau as our new Operations Manager. Emma has worked for UKSR for the previous two and half years as a Community Coordinator, and was grateful for the opportunity to step into her new position. It's been a busy six months for her as she continues to learn her new role and strives to support her colleagues.

Over the following few months, we welcomed James Slater, Kenny Reid, and Richard Quinn as Community Coordinators for various regions of the UK. They have all brought a wealth of experience as SMART Facilitators and have quickly established themselves as knowledgeable and valued members of the team.

August saw our Community Coordinator Danny Howell become our National Criminal Justice Lead, allowing him to focus on growing access to SMART throughout all stages of the criminal justice system. Danny is already making incredible progress with key innovations, allowing everyone, no matter their location or sentence type, to engage with the programme and make meaningful changes.

Since September, we bid farewell to Colleen Lally and Janine Crowdy, who have both moved on to new ventures. We're also sad to say goodbye to Jeni Langley at the end of this week, who has a fantastic new job starting in the new year. We wish them all the very best for their future endeavors and thank them for their hard work and dedication during their time with UKSR.

We are also grateful to our two new board members, Natalie Walker and David Roberts, who have recently joined our Board of Trustees. Our board members selflessly volunteer their own time to help our charity thrive, and we are hugely appreciative of the experience each of them bring. We're looking forward to getting to know Natalie and David more in the new year.

Lastly, we say a massive thank you to our Treasurer, Ian Preece, who has served on the board for the past 6 years and without whom the charity would not be where it is today. Thank you doesn't feel enough Ian! We will miss you greatly and are so grateful for all you have done for UKSR over the years.

UKSR Central Office will be closed from
5pm Friday 19th December 2025 until 9am Monday 5th January 2026.



REFLECTIONS ON 2025



As we reflect on the year, we feel immensely proud of all our charity has achieved during 2025. Here are a small selection of some of our staff's highlights of the year...

"My highlight of 2025 was the FAVOR National Recovery Walk in Wolverhampton. September was a particularly difficult time for me, so being with my colleagues meant a great deal. Wolverhampton also holds a very special place in my heart, having been my home before, during and after studying at the University of Wolverhampton, so it was wonderful to revisit the town, feel the nostalgia and see the positive changes to the town center. Despite the dreadful weather, the walk and festival were very well attended and it was fantastic to connect with so many brilliant organisations and spread the word about UKSR."

Jeni Langleigh, Community Coordinator (North East & Yorkshire)

"I've had such a great year working with UKSR, meeting wonderful people, training new facilitators and helping develop our communities. One standout moment was visiting a meeting in Edinburgh during the August festival season to support a newly trained facilitator. After following the SMART structure, he guided us through a short breathing exercise and read a poem, inviting the group to share their interpretations. He then explained that this was a creative way of using the DISARM tool. I was blown away by how imaginatively he delivered the tool while still staying true to the all-important SMART structure."

Kelly Doig, Community Coordinator (Scotland)

"My personal highlight has been joining the UK SMART Recovery team in August. After 7+ years volunteering, it is a privilege to be Community Coordinator for the South of England. In 2026 I'm looking forward to reaching-out and meeting more of the 350+ Facilitators spread from Plymouth to Folkestone."

James Slater, Community Coordinator (The South of England)

"Narrowing it down to one highlight has proved impossible, so here are my top three! Whilst still in my role of Community Coordinator, I facilitated a partner's SMART meeting for around 25 people – my first in-person meeting since before 2020 – and I was reminded just how energising facilitating in a roomful of people is. A real buzz! Another highlight was UKSR being invited to Latitude, our first-ever festival, alongside our Brand Ambassador Brandon Block, who co-facilitated a meeting, joined a panel talk, and treated us to an exclusive DJ set. My final highlight was receiving the newly updated handbook and seeing the results of our collective efforts. It was a real moment of pride!"

Emma Sharp-Lau, Operations Manager

With so much more to come in 2026, including our brand new website which our Business Coordinator Matt Frost has been busy creating, the whole staff team are excited for even more great developments and memorable moments next year!



SMART
Volunteer Awards



Our 2nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Award Ceremony saw more of our incredible volunteers receive the recognition they rightly deserve.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and a special thanks to our generous sponsor Moving on Inverclyde.

Huge congratulations to everyone who was nominated, your efforts do not go unnoticed!



We have listened to the feedback received and our 3rd annual awards ceremony is going to be even bigger and better!



AS WE ENTER THE FESTIVE SEASON, WE KNOW THIS TIME OF YEAR CAN BRING BOTH JOY AND CHALLENGES. FOR THOSE ON THE PATH OF RECOVERY, REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE. STAYING CONNECTED IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. PLEASE REACH OUT, JOIN MEETINGS, AND LEAN ON THE SUPPORT AROUND YOU. FROM ALL OF US AT UK SMART RECOVERY, WE WISH YOU SAFETY, WELLNESS, AND PEACE THIS CHRISTMAS. LET'S CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH HOPE AND STRENGTH.

