

AWARD NEWS FFEW 2026

LEADING AT THE FRONTLINE OF HEALTHCARE AND JUSTICE: MATTHEW PEEL RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FFEW AWARD ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTITIONER, NURSE LEADER, AUTHOR AND MEDICO-LEGAL EXPERT RECOGNISED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE

In healthcare, true leadership is measured not only by clinical expertise but by the ability to influence standards, educate future generations, and improve outcomes across complex systems. Few professionals embody those qualities more comprehensively than Matthew (Matt) Peel, whose remarkable career has now been recognised with the Federation of Forensic & Expert Witnesses (FFEW) Advanced Clinical Practitioner and Registered Nursing Expert Award 2026.

The award honours individuals who have made exceptional contributions to healthcare, professional practice, education, and expert witness services. For Matt Peel, it represents recognition of a career defined by clinical excellence, innovation, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to improving standards across some of the most challenging environments in modern healthcare.

Over a distinguished career spanning acute hospital medicine, emergency care, intensive care, community healthcare, care homes, and police custody services, Peel has built a reputation as one of the UK's most respected advanced practitioners and medico-legal professionals. His professional portfolio combines the roles of Advanced Clinical Practitioner, Registered Nurse, Independent Prescriber, Queen's Nurse Fellow, Author, Clinical Leader, and Expert Witness—an uncommon breadth of expertise that has enabled him to bridge the worlds of healthcare delivery, education, and justice.



What makes Peel's contribution particularly significant is his ability to combine frontline clinical experience with specialist medico-legal knowledge. This dual perspective has allowed him to influence both patient care and the systems designed to protect individuals within the criminal justice process.

His advanced clinical practice expertise encompasses comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, prescribing, and the management of complex health conditions. Alongside this, he has developed more than a decade of specialist experience within police custody healthcare, including senior leadership responsibilities as Clinical Head of Service.

MATTHEW PEEL | CONTACT@MATTHEWPEEL.NET | 07834518390

FFEW PROFILE

MATTHEW (MATT) PEEL
CO-EDITOR OF POLICE CUSTODY HEALTHCARE

AWARD NEWS

In that role, he has played a pivotal part in ensuring that some of society's most vulnerable individuals receive safe, effective, and evidence-based healthcare while in detention.

Peel's forensic and medico-legal expertise extends well beyond clinical practice. His work includes forensic examination, injury assessment, evidence collection, healthcare governance, and the preparation of professional witness statements for criminal proceedings. Over the past decade, he has provided evidence across Magistrates' Courts, Crown Courts, and Coroner's Courts, bringing clinical clarity to complex legal matters where healthcare evidence can prove decisive.

His specialist knowledge has also contributed to investigations involving deaths in custody, including work undertaken on behalf of NHS England to support inquiries conducted by the Prison and Probation Ombudsman. These highly sensitive investigations require not only clinical expertise but also independence, objectivity, and a thorough understanding of governance and accountability within healthcare systems.

Peel has become particularly recognised for his expertise in matters involving detainee welfare, suicide and self-harm, substance misuse, healthcare governance, and risk management within custodial environments. His commitment to professional standards is further reflected through the completion of the prestigious Bond Solon and Cardiff University Civil Expert Witness Certificate, regarded as a benchmark qualification for expert witness practice. However, while his clinical and legal achievements are impressive, it is perhaps his dedication to professional education and knowledge-sharing that has had the most far-reaching impact on the profession.

Recognising the growing need for specialist education within custody healthcare, Peel collaborated with fellow healthcare leaders Jennie Smith QN, Vanessa Webb, and Margaret Bannerman to author and edit the influential publication *Police Custody Healthcare for Nurses and Paramedics*. The text has become an important educational resource for practitioners working within police custody settings across the United Kingdom.

The publication addresses a range of highly specialised subjects, including Fitness to Detain and Fitness to Interview assessments, safeguarding, mental health, vulnerability, medication management, substance misuse and withdrawal, emergency care, injury assessment, evidence documentation, and counter-terrorism-related healthcare considerations. Combining practical guidance with case studies, illustrations, evidence-based learning materials, and self-assessment exercises, the book reflects Peel's belief that professional excellence is achieved through continuous learning and shared expertise.

His contribution to professional development extends well beyond a single publication. Throughout his career, Peel has authored and contributed to guidance, educational resources, and specialist commentary on topics including police custody healthcare, taser-related injuries, non-fatal strangulation, bruising in children, alcohol dependency, and alcohol withdrawal management. These contributions have helped shape practice standards and support clinicians working in high-pressure environments where sound clinical judgement is essential.

Leadership has also remained a defining feature of his professional journey. As a Queen's Nurse Fellow, Peel has demonstrated a commitment to innovation, service improvement, and the advancement of healthcare practice. His active involvement with the UKAFNP Steering Group and his role as Editor of *The Helix* further reflect his dedication to supporting professional communities and encouraging the exchange of knowledge across disciplines.

MATTHEW PEEL | CONTACT@MATTHEWPEEL.NET | 07834518390

AWARD NEWS FFEW 2026

The FFEW Award recognises not merely a collection of accomplishments but the broader impact of a professional whose work has influenced healthcare delivery, practitioner education, forensic standards, and the justice system itself.

At a time when healthcare professionals are increasingly required to operate within complex, multidisciplinary environments, Matthew Peel's career provides a compelling example of how clinical expertise, leadership, education, and medico-legal knowledge can combine to drive meaningful change.

By continually advancing evidence-based practice, supporting professional development, and championing excellence in challenging clinical settings, Peel has established himself as a leading voice within both healthcare and forensic practice.

The Federation of Forensic & Expert Witnesses' decision to honour him with the Advanced Clinical Practitioner and Registered Nursing Expert Award 2026 reflects not only his past achievements but also the enduring influence of his work on the future of healthcare and medico-legal practice.

As healthcare systems continue to evolve and the intersection between healthcare and justice grows increasingly important, professionals like Matthew Peel will remain essential in shaping standards, improving outcomes, and ensuring that excellence remains at the heart of both professions.



Matthew Peel

MATTHEW PEEL | CONTACT@MATTHEWPEEL.NET | 07834518390

FFEW PROFILE