

**Forum – Membership Secretary Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.**  
**AGM 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

The year 2025 – 2026 saw the membership steadily increasing to 60 members. As of today, we have 49 members who have renewed, made up of 30 working members, 12 students and 7 retired members. It is likely membership numbers will increase slightly over the next few weeks with some members renewing slightly later. We also regularly have new members joining over the course of the year, usually a result of word of mouth from current members, so please keep up the good work!

Our efforts to engage with Shrewsbury College and other training institutions has been rewarded with a doubling in the number of student counsellors joining Forum, which is fantastic news. Something we've all experienced is how expensive it can be as a student counsellor with associated supervision, placement and travel costs so to show our support to student members this year we introduced a lower rate of £20 for Forum events. We have also continued to offer the 'pay what you can' option to all members to help overcome financial obstacles to attending Forum events.

I have enjoyed the buzz of the Events Team this year with new members bringing extra energy and ideas. This has resulted in a full events programme for this year and plans already starting to be formed for next year. As always we are keen to know what topics our members are interested in so if you have any ideas for workshops or facilitators you would like us to invite then let me know.

A big thank you to all members for your contributions, ideas, skills sharing, feedback and positivity – as the Events Team member who has regular contact with our members I can 100% say that it is always a pleasure and never a chore! We know that there is so much knowledge and experience within our membership that we would love to tap into it more for Kitchen Table peer to peer sharing, workshops and Newsletter articles – if you could find time to get involved then please do.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Linda for her long lasting and enthusiastic commitment to Forum - enjoy your well-deserved retirement from the Team.

Anna Harlow

Membership Secretary

15<sup>th</sup> April 2026