



**NATIONAL
CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES
CONFERENCE 2026**
Liverpool 11–13 November



Programme outline (as of 10 September 2026) (subject to change)

Wednesday 11 November

08.30	Registration Exhibition opening and refreshments		Registration, exhibition and refreshments
9.00 – 9.50	Big Chat 1	Exhibit Hall	
10.00 – 11.00	P1 Conference Opening Cllr Eamonn O'Brien , Chair, Local Government Association Ann Graham , President, Association of Directors of Children's Services Phil Holmes , President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services	1A – Auditorium	Plenary
11.10 – 12.10	P2 Casey Commission Baroness Louise Casey	1A – Auditorium	Plenary
12.20 – 13.20	W1 Workshop sessions x 6		
	WW1 Making It Real in Action: An interactive experience to explore what good co-production looks like Fiona Flowers , Head of Practice Improvement, TLAP National Co-Production Advisory Group Members	Rm 11	Workshop Adult
	WW2 AGNI - deprivation of liberty post Cheshire West Chair: Professor Samantha Baron , Interim CEO, British Association of Social Workers Martin Sexton , PSW, Salford Adult Social Care; co-chair national MCA/DoLS Network Alex Cisneros , Barrister, 39 Essex Chambers Dan Scorer , Director of Policy, Public Affairs, Information and Advice, Mencap	1C – Auditorium	Workshop Adult

	WW3 Seeing Risk, Protecting Children: How Child Focused Courts Are Transforming the Private Law Response to Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control Chair: Jacky Tiotto , CEO Cafcass Theresa Leavy , Director of Private Law Transformation, Cafcass Local Authority leader from a Child Focused Courts area (name TBC) Young Person from the Family Justice Young People's Board (name TBC)	1B – Auditorium	Workshop Children
	WW4 Rebuilding Identity: Innovative Life Story Work with Refugee Children and Young People Sorcha Morgan , Head of Social Work, Children and Families Across Borders Michael Nwoye , Inter-Country Social Worker, Children and Families Across Borders Cornelia Andrecut , Director of Children's Social Care at Northamptonshire Children's Trust	Rm 3	Workshop Children
	WW5 How an Innovative Partnership Between a Council and a Community Collective Is Transforming Outcomes for Young People in South Essex Chair: Kate Clarke , Preparing for Adulthood Strategic Advisor, Southend Council Louise Brown , Co-founder, Social Worker, 1Up Collective (name TBC) Student with lived experience (name TBC)	TBC	Workshop Children
	WW6 Rewiring the state and LGR session – lessons learned so far, impact and opportunities? Rachael Wardell , Director of Children's Services, Surrey County Council Nick Presmeg , Executive Director Adult Social Care, Essex County Council	Rm 12	Workshop All Age
13.20 – 14.20	Lunch and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	Lunch and exhibition
13.30 – 14.15	Big Chat 2	Exhibit Hall	
14.20 – 15.20	S1 Sub plenary sessions x 2	2F and 2N	
	WS3 IMPOWER sponsor sub plenary (details TBC)	2F	Sub plenary Adult

	WS4 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (details TBC)	2N	Sub plenary Children
15.25 – 15.55	Refreshments and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
16.00 – 17.00	S2 Sub plenary sessions x 2		
	TS5 Learning from our neighbours Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru Social Work Scotland Northern Ireland Social Care Council (details TBC)	2F	Sub plenary Adult
	TS6 OFSTED (details TBC)	2N	Sub plenary Children
17.10 – 18.10	ADCS Members Meeting	Rm 3A	Meeting
17.10 – 18.10	ADASS Members Meeting	Rm 11a/b	Meeting
17.10 – 18.10	Meetings		
	Labour Group Meeting	1B	Meeting
	Conservatives Group Meeting	1C	Meeting
	Reform Group Meeting	Rm 4	Meeting
	Liberal Democrats Group Meeting	Rm 12	Meeting
	Green Group Meeting	TBC	Meeting
	Independents Group Meeting	TBC	Meeting

Thursday 12 November

08.15	Registration Exhibition viewing and refreshments		Registration, exhibition and refreshments
08.25 – 09.25	IMPOWER Breakfast session (details TBC)	TBC	Meeting
9.30 – 10.30	P3 (details TBC) Sir Jim Mackey , Chief Executive, NHS England Cllr Eamonn O'Brien , Chair, Local Government Association Ann Graham , President, Association of Directors of Children's Services Phil Holmes , President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services	1A – Auditorium	Plenary

10.35 – 11.05	Refreshments and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	Exhibition and refreshments
11.10 – 12.10	W3 Workshop sessions x 6		
	TW13 Widening the Circle - Experience a family group conference Chair: Kat Hartnett, Adult FGC Manager, London Borough of Camden Michaela Calvert, Expert by Experience Azara Issifu, Independent FGC Coordinator Jamie Spencer, Head of ASC Insight, Quality and Financial Services, London Borough of Camden	Rm 11A/B	Workshop Adult
	TW8 Why aren't we building the homes we need? Unlocking delivery of specialist housing through local leadership and national action Chair: Sir David Pearson, Co-Chair of the Learning Disability and Autism Housing Coalition and ADASS Associate. Chair of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Supported Housing Advisory Panel Melissa Wise, Director of Adult Social Services, Reading Borough Council / ADASS Housing Lead Joe Wheeler, Specialist Accommodation Framework Manager, Adult Social Care, Bristol City Council. Member of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Supported Housing Advisory Panel representing Local Authorities and Adult Social Care Chris Davies, Parent and lived experience representative	Rm 12	Workshop Adult
	TW9 National Adult Safeguarding Board Sarah McClinton, Chief Social Worker, DHSC Mel Williams, DASS, West Northamptonshire County Council	TBC	Workshop Adult
	TW10 Listening that Leads: Turning Insight into Action for Young People's Wellbeing in Rochdale Chair: Sharon Hubber, DCS, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council Neil Humphrey, #BeeWell Programme Charlotte Mitchell, ADCS, Rochdale ADCS Andy Bridson, Head Teacher and Chair, GM Head Teachers Group	1B	Workshop Children

	TW11 Whose Transition Is It Anyway? Building Whole-System Support, From Early Years Onwards Chair: Jason Marentz , Director of Education and Inclusion, London Borough of Hackney Chair: Marc Thompson , Headteacher, Mandeville Primary School Megan Keenan , Systemic Change Lead, Dartington Service Design Lab	Rm 3A	Workshop Children
	TW18 Shades of Bias: a systematic approach to reveal, reflect and repair the consequences of bias in social care organisations Chair: Sam Baron , Chief Executive, BASW UK Shantel Thomas , SFHEA, Chair, Director of the Anti-Racist Movement, BASW England Tricia Pereira , FRSA OBE, co-chair Social Care Workforce WRES advisory group Andrew Reece , Strategic Lead for Wales and England, BASW UK	1C	Workshop All Age
12.15 – 13.00	Plenary 4 (details TBC)	1A	Plenary
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch and exhibition	Exhibit Hall	Lunch and exhibition
13.05 – 13.55	Big Chat 3	Exhibit Hall	
14.00 – 14.45	Plenary 5 (details TBC)	1A	Plenary
14.55 – 15.55	W4 Workshop Sessions x 6		
	TW 13 Repeat homelessness and rough sleeping Carolyn Nice , Director Adults Health and Wellbeing, Stockton Borough Council Kate Greenwood , Social Worker in the Repeat Homeless Team, Stockton Borough Council Sarah Probert , Lived experience expert	Rm 11	Workshop Adult
	TW14 16 Years On: How much closer are we to a National Care Service? Chair: Cllr Dr Wendy Taylor MBE , Chair, LGA Health and Wellbeing Committee Phil Holmes , ADASS President and Executive Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Culture, City of Doncaster Council Dr Clenton Farquharson MBE , Associate Director, Think Local Act Personal Hannah White , Chief Executive, Institute for Government	Rm 12	Workshop Adult

	TW15 What do we know about how to support enduring relationships for care-experienced children and young people? Chair: Rashida Baig MBE, Director of Children's Safeguarding and Family Help, London Borough of Camden Donna Molloy OBE, Deputy Chief Executive, Foundations – What Works Centre for Children & Families Louise Spragg, Principal Social Worker, Telford & Wrekin Council Yusuf Shobair, Care-experienced young person and member of Foundations' Experts by Experience Panel	1C	Workshop Children
	TW16 Pastoral over Punitive: Alternative Provision and Benevolent Childhood Experiences Chair: Martin Russell, Lead for Culture and Wellbeing, Education, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Vikki Arunachalam, Our House Development Lead, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Dr Jo Gibson, Institute for Social Justice Research Fellow, York St John University Dauda Ladejobi, Artist/Facilitator, Ideate Education	Rm 3	Workshop Children
	TW17 Transitional safeguarding – learning from what works Chair: Melanie Williams, DASS, West Northamptonshire County Council. ADASS Safeguarding Network Co-Lead Isabelle Kirkham, Care Experienced Facilitator Mike Blower, Service Lead, Safeguarding Adolescent Service, Wigan Council Dez Holmes, Deputy Chief Executive, National Children's Bureau. Director, Research in Practice	TBC	Workshop All Age
	The future of social work (details TBC)	Rm 4	Workshop All Age
15.55 – 16.20	Refreshments and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
16.25 – 17.25	S3 Sub plenary x 2		
	TS7 CQC post baselining (details TBC)	2F	Sub plenary Adult

	TS8 Getting to good – the story of the Northwest region (details TBC)	2N	Sub plenary Children
17.30 – 18.25	ADASS General Meeting	Rm 3	Meeting

Friday 13 November

08.15	Registration Exhibition viewing and refreshments		Registration, exhibition and refreshments
09.15 – 10.15	S4 Sub plenary sessions x 2		
	FS9 Beyond the postcode lottery: what does a fair social care system really look like? (details TBC)	2F	Sub plenary Adult
	FS10 NAO insights: Strengthening relations with DfE (details TBC) Emma Willson , Director (Education, value for money), National Audit Office	2N	Sub plenary Children
10.20 – 10.55	Refreshments and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	Exhibition and refreshments
10.25 – 10.55	Big Chat 4	Exhibit Hall	
11.00 – 11.50	S5 Sub-plenary		
	FS11 Neighbourhoods (details TBC)	2F	Sub plenary Adult
	FS12 Children's Social Care Reform (details TBC)	2N	Sub plenary Children
12.00 – 13.00	P5 Not in Education, Employment or Training Inquiry (details TBC)	Auditorium	Plenary
13.00	Conference Close		
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	Lunch and exhibition