



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



## Programme outline (as 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026) (subject to change)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                               |                                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 08.30         | Registration<br>Exhibition opening and refreshments                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Room                          | Registration, exhibition and refreshments |
| 9.00 – 9.50   | <b>Big Chat 1 – Let's dance: how Direct Payments can transform young People's Lives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMPOWER</li> <li>• Community Catalysts</li> <li>• DanceSyndrome</li> </ul>                                                             | Big Chat area<br>Exhibit Hall | Big Chat                                  |
| 10.00 – 11.00 | <b>P1 Conference Opening</b><br><b>Ann Graham</b> , President, Association of Directors of Children's Services<br><b>Phil Holmes</b> , President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services<br><b>Cllr Eamonn O'Brien</b> , Chair, Local Government Association | 1A – Auditorium               | Plenary                                   |
| 11.00 – 11.02 | Two-minute silence for Remembrance Day is observed at 11:00                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                               |                                           |
|               | <b>S1 Sub Plenary sessions x 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                               |                                           |
| 11.10 – 12.10 | <b>WS1 Childrens (details TBC)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TBC                           | Sub plenary                               |
| 11.05 – 12.10 | <b>WS2 Casey Commission</b><br>Baroness Casey of Blackstock DBE CB, Chair, Independent Commission on Adult Social Care                                                                                                                                                  | 1A – Auditorium               | Sub plenary                               |
| 12.10 – 13.10 | Lunch and exhibition viewing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Exhibit Hall                  |                                           |
| 12.15 – 13.10 | <b>Big Chat 2</b><br><b>SEND Reform: If You Want to Go Far, Go Together</b><br>IMPOWER, with contributions from Council for Disabled Children, parent-carer voices and strategic leaders for inclusion                                                                  | Big Chat area<br>Exhibit Hall | Big Chat                                  |

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 13.15 -14.15  | <b>S2 Sub plenary sessions x 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |                       |
|               | <p><b>WS3 Head and Heart: From strengths-based conversations to outcomes you can see, measure and commission for.</b></p> <p><b>(Chair) Martin Samuels</b>, Executive Director of Adult Care &amp; Community Wellbeing at Lincolnshire County Council</p> <p><b>Joss Harbron</b>, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, Darlington Borough Council</p> <p><b>Sarah Downes</b>, Interim Head of Service: Assurance, Transformation and Financial Management, Telford and Wrekin Council</p> <p><b>Geoff Hinkins</b>, Delivery Director, IMPOWER</p> | 2F              | Sub Plenary Adults    |
|               | <b>WS4 Children Social Care Reform</b> (details TBC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2N              | Sub Plenary Childrens |
| 14.20 – 15.20 | <b>W1 Workshop sessions x 6</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |                       |
|               | <p><b>WW1 We all say co-production matters, but how do we prove it? An exploration of how to approach measuring the impact of co-production.</b></p> <p>National Co-Production Advisory Group Members</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Rm 11           | Adult Workshop        |
|               | <p><b>WW2 AGNI - deprivation of liberty post Cheshire West</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Professor Samantha Baron</b>, Interim CEO, British Association of Social Workers</p> <p><b>Rashpal Bishop</b>, DASS, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and ADASS Vice President</p> <p><b>Martin Sexton</b>, PSW, Salford Adult Social Care; co-chair national MCA/DoLS Network</p> <p><b>Alex Cisneros</b>, Barrister, 39 Essex Chambers</p> <p><b>Dan Scorer</b>, Director of Policy, Public Affairs, Information and Advice, Mencap</p>                      | 1C – Auditorium | Adult Workshop        |
|               | <p><b>WW3 Seeing Risk, Protecting Children: How Child Focused Courts Are Transforming the Private Law Response to Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Jacky Tiotto</b>, CEO Cafcass</p> <p><b>Theresa Leavy</b>, Director of Private Law Transformation, Cafcass</p> <p>Local Authority leader from a Child Focused Courts area (name TBC)</p> <p>Young Person from the Family Justice Young People's Board (name TBC)</p>                                                                                                     | 1B – Auditorium | Children workshop     |

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |               |                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|               | <b>WW4 Rebuilding Identity: Innovative Life Story Work with Refugee Children and Young People</b><br><b>Sorcha Morgan</b> , Head of Social Work, Children and Families Across Borders<br><b>Michael Nwoye</b> , Inter-Country Social Worker, Children and Families Across Borders<br><b>Cornelia Andrecut</b> , Director of Children's Social Care at Northamptonshire Children's Trust | Rm 3          | Children workshop |
|               | <b>WW5 How an Innovative Partnership Between a Council and a Community Collective Is Transforming Outcomes for Young People in South Essex</b><br><b>Chair: Kate Clarke</b> , Preparing for Adulthood Strategic Advisor, Southend Council<br><b>Louise Brown</b> , Co-founder, Social Worker, 1Up Collective (name TBC)<br>Student with lived experience (name TBC)                     | TBC           | Children workshop |
|               | <b>WW6 Rewiring the state and LGR session – lessons learned so far, impact and opportunities?</b><br><b>Rachael Wardell</b> , Director of Children's Services, Surrey County Council<br><b>Nick Presmeg</b> , Executive Director Adult Social Care, Essex County Council                                                                                                                | Rm 12         | All age workshop  |
| 15.20 - 15.55 | Refreshments and exhibition viewing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Exhibit Hall  |                   |
| 16.00 – 16.50 | <b>P3 Josh MacAlister OBE MP, Minister for Children and Families</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1A Auditorium | Plenary           |
|               | <b>Close of conference main programme</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |               |                   |
| 17.00 – 18.00 | <b>ADCS Members Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Rm 3A         |                   |
| 17.00 – 18.00 | <b>ADASS Special General Meeting and Members Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Rm 11a/b      |                   |
| 17.00 – 18.00 | Meetings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |               |                   |
|               | Labour Group Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1B            |                   |
|               | Conservatives Group Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 1C            |                   |
|               | Reform Group Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Rm 4          |                   |
|               | Liberal Democrats Group Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Rm 12         |                   |
|               | Green Group Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | TBC           |                   |
|               | Independents Group Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | TBC           |                   |

## Thursday 12 November

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 |                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 08.15         | Registration<br>Exhibition viewing and refreshments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                 | Registration, exhibition and refreshments |
| 08.25 – 09.25 | <b>IMPOWER Breakfast Workshop</b><br><b>Using AI, digital and data-led approaches to transform children's services</b> – learning, insight and examples from local areas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | TBC             | Workshop                                  |
| 9.30 – 10.30  | <b>P4</b><br><b>Sir Jim Mackey</b> , Chief Executive, NHS England<br><b>Ann Graham</b> , President, Association of Directors of Children's Services<br><b>Jess McGregor</b> , Immediate Past President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (TBC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1A – Auditorium | Plenary                                   |
| 10.35 – 11.05 | Refreshments and exhibition viewing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Exhibit Hall    |                                           |
| 11.10 – 12.10 | <b>W3 Workshop sessions x 6</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 |                                           |
|               | <b>TW7 Widening the Circle - Experience a family group conference</b><br><b>Chair: Kat Hartnett</b> , Adult FGC Manager, London Borough of Camden<br><b>Michaela Calvert</b> , Expert by Experience<br><b>Azara Issifu</b> , Independent FGC Coordinator<br><b>Jamie Spencer</b> , Head of ASC Insight, Quality and Financial Services, London Borough of Camden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Rm 11A/B        | Adult workshop                            |
|               | <b>TW8 Why aren't we building the homes we need? Unlocking delivery of specialist housing through local leadership and national action</b><br><b>Chair: Sir David Pearson</b> , 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<br><b>Melissa Wise</b> , Director of Adult Social Services, Reading Borough Council / ADASS Housing Lead<br><b>Joe Wheeler</b> , 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<br><b>Chris Davies</b> , Parent and lived experience representative | Rm 12           | Adult workshop                            |
|               | <b>TW9 National Adult Safeguarding Board (details TBC)</b><br><b>Sarah McClinton</b> , Chief Social Worker, DHSC<br><b>Mel Williams</b> , DASS, West Northamptonshire County Council                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | TBC             | Adult workshop                            |

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                               |                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
|               | <b>TW10 Listening that Leads: Turning Insight into Action for Young People's Wellbeing in Rochdale</b><br><b>Chair: Sharon Hubber</b> , DCS, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council<br><b>Neil Humphrey</b> , #BeeWell Programme<br><b>Charlotte Mitchell</b> , ADCS, Rochdale ADCS<br><b>Andy Bridson</b> , Head Teacher and Chair, GM Head Teachers Group                                                                                             | 1B                            | Children Workshop    |
|               | <b>TW11 (TBC)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Rm 3A                         | Children workshop    |
|               | <b>TW12 Shades of Bias: a systematic approach to reveal, reflect and repair the consequences of bias in social care organisations</b><br><b>Chair: Sam Baron</b> , Chief Executive, BASW UK<br><b>Shantel Thomas</b> , SFHEA, Chair, Director of the Anti-Racist Movement, BASW England<br><b>Tricia Pereira</b> , FRSA OBE, co-chair Social Care Workforce WRES advisory group<br><b>Andrew Reece</b> , Strategic Lead for Wales and England, BASW UK | 1C                            | All age workshop     |
| 12.15 – 13.00 | <b>Plenary 5</b> (details TBC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1A                            | Plenary              |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch and exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Exhibit Hall                  |                      |
| 13.05 – 13.55 | <b>Big Chat 3 – Social Care Future, National Care Standards (details TBC)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Big Chat area<br>Exhibit Hall | Big Chat             |
| 14.05 – 15.05 | <b>S3 Sub plenary sessions x 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                               |                      |
|               | <b>TS5 Sir Martyn Oliver</b> , His Majesty's Chief Inspector OFSTED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2N                            | Children sub plenary |
|               | <b>TS6 Learning from our Neighbours</b><br><b>Rashpal Bishop</b> , Vice President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services<br><b>Sarah Day MBE</b> , Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru<br><b>Ben Farrugia</b> , Director, Social Work Scotland<br><b>Tracy Reid</b> , Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Social Care Council                                                                                                  | 2F                            | Adult sub plenary    |
| 15.10 – 16.10 | <b>W4 Workshop Sessions x 6</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                               |                      |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       |                   |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
|  | <b>TW 13 Repeat homelessness and rough sleeping</b><br><b>Carolyn Nice</b> , Director Adults Health and Wellbeing, Stockton Borough Council<br><b>Kate Greenwood</b> , Social Worker in the Repeat Homeless Team, Stockton Borough Council<br><b>Sarah Probert</b> , Lived experience expert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Rm 11 | Adult workshop    |
|  | <b>TW14 16 Years On: How much closer are we to a National Care Service?</b><br><b>Chair: Cllr Dr Wendy Taylor MBE</b> , Chair, LGA Health and Wellbeing Committee<br><b>Phil Holmes</b> , ADASS President and Executive Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Culture, City of Doncaster Council<br><b>Dr Clenton Farquharson MBE</b> , Associate Director, Think Local Act Personal<br><b>Hannah White</b> , Chief Executive, Institute for Government                                                                                               | Rm 12 | Adult workshop    |
|  | <b>TW15 What do we know about how to support enduring relationships for care-experienced children and young people?</b><br><b>Chair: Rashida Baig MBE</b> , Director of Children's Safeguarding and Family Help, London Borough of Camden<br><b>Donna Molloy OBE</b> , Deputy Chief Executive, Foundations – What Works Centre for Children & Families<br><b>Louise Spragg</b> , Principal Social Worker, Telford & Wrekin Council<br><b>Yusuf Shobair</b> , Care-experienced young person and member of Foundations' Experts by Experience Panel | 1C    | Children workshop |
|  | <b>TW16 Pastoral over Punitive: Alternative Provision and Benevolent Childhood Experiences</b><br><b>Chair: Martin Russell</b> , Lead for Culture and Wellbeing, Education, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham<br><b>Vikki Arunachalam</b> , Our House Development Lead, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham<br><b>Dr Jo Gibson</b> , Institute for Social Justice Research Fellow, York St John University<br><b>Dauda Ladejobi</b> , Artist/Facilitator, Ideate Education                                                                | Rm 3  | Children workshop |
|  | <b>TW17 Transitional safeguarding – learning from what works</b><br><b>Chair: Melanie Williams</b> , DASS, West Northamptonshire County Council. ADASS Safeguarding Network Co-Lead<br><b>Isabelle Kirkham</b> , Care Experienced Facilitator<br><b>Mike Blower</b> , Service Lead, Safeguarding Adolescent Service, Wigan Council<br><b>Dez Holmes</b> , Deputy Chief Executive, National Children's Bureau. Director, Research in Practice                                                                                                      | TBC   | All age workshop  |

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              |                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
|               | <b>TW18 The future of social work</b> (details TBC)<br><b>Sarah Blackmore</b> , Executive director of professional practice and external engagement, Social Work England<br><b>MJ Black</b> , National Advisory Forum, Social Work England<br><b>Sarah McClinton</b> , Chief Social Worker, DHSC<br><b>Isabelle Trowler CBE</b> , Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, DFE<br>BASW (TBC) | Rm 4         | All age workshop     |
| 16.10 – 16.40 | Refreshments and exhibition viewing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Exhibit Hall |                      |
| 16.45 – 17.45 | <b>S4 Sub plenary x 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |              |                      |
|               | <b>TS7 CQC post baselining (details TBC)</b><br><b>Chris Badger</b> , Chief Inspector of adult Social Care and Integrated Care, CQC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2F           | Adult sub plenary    |
|               | <b>TS8 Getting to good – the story of the Northwest region (details TBC)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 2N           | Children sub plenary |

## Friday 13 November

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                               |                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 08.15         | Registration<br>Exhibition viewing and refreshments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                               | Registration, exhibition and refreshments |
| 09.15 – 10.15 | <b>S5 Sub plenary sessions x 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                               |                                           |
|               | <b>FS9 Beyond the postcode lottery: what does a fair social care system really look like?</b><br><b>Dr Clenton Farquharson</b> CBE, Associate Director, Think Local Act Personal (TLAP)<br><b>Phil Holmes</b> , President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)<br><b>Jacqui Darlington</b> , National Co-production Advisory Group (NCAG)<br><b>Chris Badger</b> , Chief Inspector of adult Social Care and Integrated Care, Care Quality Commission (CQC)<br><b>Gerard Crofton-Martin</b> , Interim Chief Executive, Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) | 2F                            | Adult sub plenary                         |
|               | <b>FS10 NAO insights: Strengthening relations with DfE</b> (details TBC)<br><b>Emma Willson</b> , Director (Education, value for money), National Audit Office                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2N                            | Children sub plenary                      |
| 10.20 – 10.55 | Refreshments and exhibition viewing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Exhibit Hall                  |                                           |
| 10.25 – 10.55 | <b>Big Chat 4 – TBC</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Big Chat area<br>Exhibit Hall | Big Chat                                  |

|               |                                                                                                       |              |                      |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 11.00 – 11.50 | <b>S6 Sub-plenary x 2</b>                                                                             |              |                      |
|               | <b>FS11 Who owns neighbourhood health? Shaping Local Government's vision for health and wellbeing</b> | 2F           | Adult sub plenary    |
|               | <b>FS12 Children's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</b> (details TBC)                       | 2N           | Children sub plenary |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | <b>P6 Not in Education, Employment or Training Inquiry</b> (details TBC)                              | Auditorium   | Plenary              |
| 13.00         | <b>Conference Close</b>                                                                               |              |                      |
| 13.00 – 13.45 | Lunch and exhibition viewing                                                                          | Exhibit Hall |                      |