



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

directors of
adass
adult social services

ADCS
Leading Children's Services

**Local
Government
Association**

IMPOWER

Programme outline (as 14th October 2026) (subject to change)

Wednesday 11th November

08.30	Registration Exhibition opening and refreshments	Room	Registration, exhibition and refreshments
9.00 – 9.50	Big Chat 1 – Let's dance: how Direct Payments can transform young People's Lives • IMPOWER • Community Catalysts • DanceSyndrome	Big Chat area Exhibit Hall	Big Chat
10.00 – 11.00	P1 Conference Opening Ann Graham , President, Association of Directors of Children's Services Phil Holmes , President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Cllr Eamonn O'Brien , Chair, Local Government Association	1A – Auditorium	Plenary
11.00 – 11.02	Two-minute silence for Remembrance Day is observed at 11:00		
	S1 Sub Plenary sessions x 2		
11.10 – 12.10	WS1 Violence fixated individuals, details TBC	TBC	Sub plenary

11.05 – 12.10	WS2 Casey Commission Chair: Cllr Eamonn O’Brien , Chair, Local Government Association Baroness Casey of Blackstock DBE CB , Chair, Independent Commission on Adult Social Care Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE , Think Local Act Personal Associate Director. Jess McGregor , Immediate Past President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services	1A – Auditorium	Sub plenary
12.10 – 13.10	Lunch and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	
12.15 – 13.10	Big Chat 2 SEND Reform: If You Want to Go Far, Go Together IMPOWER, with contributions from Council for Disabled Children, parent-carer voices and strategic leaders for inclusion	Big Chat area Exhibit Hall	Big Chat
13.15 -14.15	S2 Sub plenary sessions x 2		
	WS3 Head and Heart: From strengths-based conversations to outcomes you can see, measure and commission for. Chair: Martin Samuels , Executive Director of Adult Care & Community Wellbeing at Lincolnshire County Council Panel: Joss Harbron , Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, Darlington Borough Council Sarah Downes , Interim Head of Service: Assurance, Transformation and Financial Management, Telford and Wrekin Council Geoff Hinkins , Delivery Director, IMPOWER	2F	Sub Plenary Adults
	WS4 Seeing Risk, Protecting Children: How Child Focused Courts Are Transforming the Private Law Response to Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control Jacky Tiotto (Chair) – Cafcass Chief Executive Officer Helen Lincoln - Executive Director for Children, Families and Education, Essex County Council Vanessa D’Amore – Service Delivery Manager, Leeds City Council Danielle Dunbar – Assistant Director (London), Cafcass Michelle Hulme – Assistant Director (Birmingham and West Midlands), Cafcass	2N	Sub Plenary Childrens

14.20 – 15.20	W1 Workshop sessions x 6		
	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. National Co-Production Advisory Group Members	Rm 11	Adult Workshop
	WW2 AGNI - deprivation of liberty post Cheshire West Chair: Professor Samantha Baron , Interim CEO, British Association of Social Workers Rashpal Bishop , DASS, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and ADASS Vice President 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	Adult Workshop
	WW3 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 Andreut , Director of Children's Social Care at Northamptonshire Children's Trust	Rm 3	Children workshop
	WW4 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)	RM 4	Children workshop
	WW5 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 (TBC)	Rm 12	All age workshop
15.20 - 15.55	Refreshments and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	

16.00 – 16.50	P3 Josh MacAlister OBE MP, Minister for Children and Families Chair: Cllr Natalie Oliver, Chair, LGA Children, Young People and Families Committee and Lead Member for Children's Services and Culture, Lincolnshire County Council. Ann Graham , President, Association of Directors of Children's Services	1A Auditorium	Plenary
	Close of conference main programme		
17.00 – 18.00	ADCS Members Meeting	Rm 3A	
17.00 – 18.00	ADASS Special General Meeting and Members Reception with Welcome Drinks	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 Exhibition viewing and refreshments		Registration, exhibition and refreshments
08.25 – 09.25	IMPOWER Breakfast Workshop Using AI, digital and data-led approaches to transform children's services – learning, insight and examples from local areas	TBC	Workshop
9.30 – 10.30	P4 Sir Jim Mackey , Chief Executive, NHS England Ann Graham , President, Association of Directors of Children's Services Phil Holmes , 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	W3 Workshop sessions x 6		

	TW7 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	Adult workshop
	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	Adult workshop
	TW9 National Adult Safeguarding Board (details TBC) Sarah McClinton, Chief Social Worker, DHSC Mel Williams, DASS, West Northamptonshire County Council	Rm 4	Adult workshop
	TW10 Listening that Leads: Turning Insight into Action for Young People's Wellbeing in Rochdale Chair: Sharon Hubber, DCS, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council Professor Neil Humphrey, #BeeWell Programme Charlotte Mitchell, ADCS, Rochdale ADCS Andy Bridson, Head Teacher and Chair, GM Head Teachers Group	1B	Children Workshop
	TW11 Stop and Search – details TBC	Rm 3A	Children workshop

	TW12 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	All age workshop
12.15 – 13.00	Plenary 5 (details TBC)	1A	Plenary
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch and exhibition	Exhibit Hall	
13.05 – 13.55	Big Chat 3 – Social Care Future, National Care Standards (details TBC)	Big Chat area Exhibit Hall	Big Chat
14.05 – 15.05	S3 Sub plenary sessions x 2		
	TS5 Inspection, oversight and accountability Chair: Jo Fisher , Executive Director of Children's Services and Education, Hertfordshire County Council and Chair of the ADCS Regional Improvement and Inspection Policy Network Sir Martyn Oliver , His Majesty's Chief Inspector, Ofsted Yvette Stanley , National Director for Social Care, Ofsted	2N	Children sub plenary
	TS6 Learning from our Closest Neighbours Chair: Rashpal Bishop , Vice President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Sarah Day MBE , Chief Executive and the Business Delivery Unit Lead for Association of Directors of Social Services, Cymru Craig Macleod , Chief Officer Social Services, Flintshire County Council Ben Farrugia , Director, Social Work Scotland Tracy Reid , Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Social Care Council	2F	Adult sub plenary
15.10 – 16.10	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	Adult workshop

	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 Dr Clenton Farquharson MBE, Associate Director, Think Local Act Personal Hannah White, Chief Executive, Institute for Government	Rm 12	Adult workshop
	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	Children workshop
	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	Children workshop
	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	1B	All age workshop
	TW18 Leading change together: the future of social work Sam Baron, Interim Chief Executive Officer, BASW UK Sarah Blackmore, Executive director of professional practice and external engagement, Social Work England MJ Black, National Advisory Forum, Social Work England Sarah McClinton, Chief Social Worker, DHSC Isabelle Trowler CBE, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, DFE	Rm 4	All age workshop

16.10 – 16.40	Refreshments and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	
16.45 – 17.45	S4 Sub plenary x 2		
	TS7 CQC post baselining (details TBC) Chris Badger , Chief Inspector of adult Social Care and Integrated Care, CQC	2F	Adult sub plenary
	TS8 Getting to good – the story of the Northwest region (details TBC)	2N	Children sub plenary

Friday 13 November

08.15	Registration Exhibition viewing and refreshments		Registration, exhibition and refreshments
09.15 – 10.15	S5 Sub plenary sessions x 2		
	FS9 Beyond the postcode lottery: what does a fair social care system really look like? Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE, Associate Director, Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) Phil Holmes , President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Jacqui Darlington , National Co-production Advisory Group (NCAG) Chris Badger , Chief Inspector of adult Social Care and Integrated Care, Care Quality Commission (CQC) Gerard Crofton-Martin , Interim Chief Executive, Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)	2F	Adult sub plenary
	FS10 NAO insights: Strengthening relations with DfE (details TBC) Emma Willson , 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	Big Chat 4 – What do we from social care of the future? Knowsley Council and Healthwatch	Big Chat area Exhibit Hall	Big Chat
11.00 – 11.50	S6 Sub-plenary x 2		
	FS11 Who owns neighbourhood health? Shaping Local Government's vision for health and wellbeing	2F	Adult sub plenary
	FS12 Children's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (details TBC)	2N	Children sub plenary

12.00 – 13.00	P6 (TBC)	Auditorium	Plenary
13.00	Conference Close		
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	