

Programme outline (as 6th November 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** **Deborah Crossan,** Managing Director, IMPOWER **Helen Allen,** Community Catalysts **Julie Nicholson,** DanceSyndrome **Becky Rich,** DanceSyndrome **Shirley Carthy,** Personal Assistant	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 Working with children who pose a risk to others: understanding risk, strengthening prevention** **Chair: Dheeraj Chibber,** Chair of the ADCS Health, Care and Commissioning network **Jacqui Old**, Executive Director Education and Children's Services **Georgine Lee**, Head of Service Fostering, Adoption and Adolescent services **Medina Patel**, Senior Business Manager, Lancashire Safeguarding Business Unit **Emma Ford,** Systems Leader - Children's and Transformation	2N	Sub plenary
11.10 – 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** **Dr Rob Hart**, Delivery Director, IMPOWER **Anna Gardiner**, Interim Director, Council for Disabled Children **Dawn Dyer,** Head of SEND, Rochdale Borough Council **Jackie Ellis**, Rochdale Parent Carers Voice **Sam Baker**, Northamptonshire Parent Carer Voices **Claire Baxter,** Northamptonshire Parent Carer Voices	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 **Tracy Reid**, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Social Care 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. **Fi Flowers,** Head of Practice Improvement, Think Local Act Personal **Isaac Samuels,** Co- Chair, National Co-Production Advisory Group **Kate Sibthorp**, Co- Chair, National Co-Production Advisory Group	Rm 11	Adult Workshop
	WW2 AGNI - deprivation of liberty post Cheshire West **Chair: Professor Samantha Baron,** Interim CEO, British Association of Social Workers **Martin Sexton**, Head of Service for Learning and Development, , 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 **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	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, 1Up Collective **Karim Mokrani**, 1Up Collective **Harris C**, Expert by Experience **Austin H**, Expert by Experience	RM 4	Children workshop
	WW5 Local Government Reorganisation – lessons, impact and opportunities **Chair: Cllr Sarah Rouse,** Deputy Chair, LGA Health and Wellbeing Committee **Rachael Wardell,** Director of Children's Services, Surrey County Council **Nick Presmeg,** Executive Director Adult Social Care, Essex County Council	Rm 12	All age workshop
	WW6 Navigating Public Inquiries **Chair: Jacqui Old,** Executive Director Education and Children's Services, Lancashire County Council **Louise Anderson,** Director of Children's Services, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	Room (TBC)	
15.20 - 15.55	Refreshments and exhibition viewing **Civil Service colleagues from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Education will be hosting a drop-in session in the Big Chat exhibition area covering the following themes:** - Children's Social Care reform - Children's social care reforms - Dedicated School Grant deficits **Please come along for a conversation.**	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 **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	Rm 13	
	Independents Group Meeting	Rm 14	

Thursday 12 November

08.15	Registration Exhibition viewing and refreshments **From 8.45am – 9.15am Civil Service colleagues from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health and Social Care will be hosting a drop-in session in the Big Chat exhibition area. This will be repeated in the refreshment breaks during Thursday.** **If you have any questions, please drop in for a chat about Government policy in the following areas.** - Adult social care funding including the new system that replaces grant with 'notional allocations' - Children's social care reforms - Dedicated School Grant deficits write off - Local Authority Better Care Grant and Better Care Fund - Fair Pay Agreement - Adult social care improvement - ASC workforce planning		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 **Chair: Dominic Luscombe,** Director, IMPOWER **Ann James,** Director of Children's Services, Gloucestershire County Council **Fran Tinsley,** Senior Manager, Applied Analytics Practice, IMPOWER **Andrew Borwick-Fox,** Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting, Suffolk County Council **Kate Dexter,** Executive Director of Services, NSPCC	2N	Workshop
9.30 – 10.30	**P4 Building Neighbourhood Health Together** **Chair: Cllr Megan Wright,** Vice-Chair, LGA Health and Wellbeing Committee **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 **National Coproduction Advisory Group (tbc)**	1A – Auditorium	Plenary
10.35 – 11.05	Refreshments and exhibition viewing ***Policy chat drop-in with MHCLG and DHSC in the Big Chat exhibition area***	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 How we establish a National Adults Safeguarding System: the need to listen, to learn and to act **Chair: Fazeela Hafejee,** Assistant Director, Adults with Disabilities, City of Bradford Council **Sarah McClinton,** Chief Social Worker, DHSC **Dr Clenton Farquharson MBE,** Associate Director, Think Local Act Personal **Isaac Samuels,** Co- Chair, National Co-Production Advisory Group **Esther Golby,** Head of Safeguarding at NHS Cheshire and Merseyside.	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 Through a Safeguarding Lens: The Child Behind the Search **Chair: Ann Graham**, Corporate Director Children's Services, Londin Borough of Haringey and ADCS President **Bev Hendricks,** Executive Director of Children, Lifelong Learning and Families, London Borough of Merton **David Bradley,** Superintendent, Metropolitan Police **Amanda Radley**, British Transport Police, Child Exploitation Subject Matter Expert, County Lines Task Force	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: Alison McGovern MP, Minister of State for Adult Social Care and Mental Health** **Chair:** Cllr Dr Wendy Taylor MBE, Chair of the LGA's Health and Wellbeing Committee **Phil Holmes,** President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services **Kate Sibthorpe,** Co-Chair National Co-Production Advisory Group	1A	Plenary
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch and exhibition ***DHSC policy leads for Workforce, Adult Social Care Improvement and the Fair Pay Agreement will be at the PCH exhibition space. Please come along for a chat.***	Exhibit Hall	
13.05 – 13.55	**Big Chat 3 – Social Care Future, National Care Standards** **Martin Routledge,** Social Care Future **Anna Severwright,** Social Care Future **Tricia Nicoll,** Social Care Future **Kari Gerstheimer,** CEO, Access Social Care	Big Chat area Exhibit Hall	Big Chat
14.00 – 15.00	**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 **Julie Lathan,** Service Lead Homelessness Stockton Borough Council **Kate Greenwood,** Social Worker in the Repeat Homeless Team, Stockton Borough Council **Calum Titley,** Service manager – Adult Social Care, 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 **Stephen Taylor**, Stephen Taylor, Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Peterborough City Council **Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE,** Associate Director, Think Local Act Personal **Nick Davies,** Director of Public Services, 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 Lowther,** 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: Adi Cooper,** Care and Health Improvement Adviser, Safeguarding Adults, Partners in Care and Health **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 ***Policy chat drop-in with MHCLG and DHSC in the Big Chat exhibition area***	Exhibit Hall	
16.45 – 17.45	**S4 Sub plenary x 2**		
	TS7 CQC post baselining (details TBC) **Chair: Cllr Diane Morton**, Deputy Chair, LGA Health and Wellbeing Committee **Chris Badger,** Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care and Integrated Care, CQC **Rashpal Bishop,** Rashpal Bishop, Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and ADASS Vice President **Cllr Paul Watling**, Cabinet Member of Adult Care and Independent Living, Telford and Wrekin Council	2F	Adult sub plenary

	TS8 Getting to good – the story of the Northwest region **Chair: Gail Tolley,** Director of Children's Sector Led Improvement, LGA **Jenny Glennard,** Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Services, Liverpool City Council **Vicky Gent,** Director of Children's Services, Blackpool Council	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 **Chair: Cllr Natalie Oliver**, Chair, Children, Young People and Families Committee, Local Government Association **Emma Willson,** Director (Education, value for money), National Audit Office **Colin Foster**, ADCS Vice President	2N	Children sub plenary
10.20 – 10.55	Refreshments and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	
10.25 – 10.55	**Big Chat 4 – Family Care and Finances – the hidden cost of ageing** Knowsley Council and Healthwatch **Sheila Bersin MBE,** Knowsley Older People's Voice - Expert by Experience **Jen Casey-Kidd,** Healthwatch Knowsley	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 **Chair: Cllr Lorraine Francis**, Deputy Chair, LGA Health and Wellbeing Committee **Rich Amos**, Lived Experience Advisor, National Co-production Advisory group **Rashpal Bishop,** DASS, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and ADASS Vice President **Sally Warren,** Director General for Adult Social Care, Department of Health and Social Care	2F	Adult sub plenary
	FS12 SEND Reform: Managing the Present, Shaping the Future **Chair: Cllr Amanda Serjeant,** LGA Children, Young People and Families Committee **Heather Sandy,** Executive Director of Children's Services and Deputy Chief Executive at Lincolnshire County Council and Chair of the ADCS Inclusive Education Policy Network **Cathy Starbuck,** Director of Education and Inclusion at Salford City Council **Dawn Fenton,** Neurodevelopmental Pathway Lead	2N	Children sub plenary
12.00 – 13.00	**P6 Rewiring the State** **Chair: Cllr Amanda Serjeant**, Vice-Chair, Children, Young People and Families Committee **Lukman Patel,** Chief Executive of Burnley Council **Helen Charlesworth-May,** Executive Director – Adults, Health and Integration, Cheshire East Council **Cllr Keith Cunliffe,** Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Wigan Council **Thomas Lynch,** Strategic Policy & Practice Manager, Local Government Information Unit **Rachael Wardell**, Executive Director of Children, Families and Lifelong Learning at Surrey County Council	2F	Plenary
13.00	**Conference Close** **Colin Foster**, ADCS Vice President **Rashpal Bishop,** ADASS Vice President	2F	
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch and exhibition viewing	Exhibit Hall	