

ADCS Annual Conference 2024: Thursday 11th – Friday 12th July

Conference programme

Thursday 11 July – all members	
11.00am – 11.30am	<p>ADCS President's opening address</p> <p>Andy Smith, ADCS President</p>
11.30am – 12.00pm	<p>Our Voice, Our Success</p> <p>A group of young people from "Our Voice, Our Success," Derby City Council's Children in Care Council, will share some work they've created especially for the event. This will be followed by a panel discussion.</p> <p>Chair: Andy Smith, ADCS President</p>
12.00pm – 1.00pm	<p>Accountability in children's services</p> <p>A panel discussion about accountability in children's services and the role of inspection and sector-led improvement going forward with the shared aim of improving children and young people's outcomes right across the country.</p> <p>Speakers: Yvette Stanley, Ofsted; Gail Tolley, LGA; Colin Foster, Northamptonshire Children's Trust</p> <p>Chair: Jo Fisher, Chair of the ADCS Standards, Performance and Inspection Policy Committee</p>
1.00pm – 2.15pm	Networking Lunch
2.15pm – 3.15pm	<p>Free loaves on Fridays</p> <p>Keynote address from Rebekah Pierre, a care-experienced writer, campaigner and qualified social worker. Rebekah will share some insights into her own experience of the care system, her advocacy work and talk about Free loaves on Fridays, an anthology of stories, poems, reflections and letters from 100 care experienced people with the aim of challenging tired, worn-out stereotypes.</p> <p>Speaker: Rebekah Pierre</p> <p>Chair: Andy Smith, ADCS President</p>
3.15pm – 4.30pm	<p>Keeping Children Engaged in Education</p> <p>The number of children who are missing education or persistently absent from school remains stubbornly high. This session will explore</p>

	<p>some of the barriers to keeping children engaged in education and what schools, local authorities and health partners are doing to help reverse this trend.</p> <p>Speakers: Sue Johnson, Chair of NAVSH; Roisin McEvoy, Anna Freud Centre; Alice Ngondi, Bradford Metropolitan District Council</p> <p>Chair: Heather Sandy, Chair of ADCS Education Policy Committee</p>
4.30pm – 6.00pm	Workshops x4
Workshop A	<p>Building the foundations for a great life</p> <p>This session will explore how families can be supported to give their young children strong foundations for a great life, with a focus on addressing inequalities, promoting community engagement and spotlighting the importance of play.</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Barnes, Hull City Council • Caroline Scuffam, Goodwin Development Trust • Sarah Newman, Bi-Borough • Jacqui Old, Lancashire County Council <p>Chair: Rachael Wardell, ADCS Vice President</p>
Workshop B	<p>Anti-racist practice across children’s services</p> <p>This session will hear from three different local authorities embedding anti-racist practice across their workforce to better support children, young people and families from diverse communities and backgrounds.</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sukriti Sen, Essex County Council • Shelley Gill, Durham County Council • Rachel Farnham, Durham County Council • Mark Scott, Sheffield City Council • Lindsay Hutton, Sheffield City Council <p>Chair: Nicola Curley, Chair of ADCS Workforce Policy Committee</p>
Workshop C	<p>Child sexual abuse in the family environment: addressing challenges in practice</p> <p>Based on the work of the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, this session will reflect on the myriad practice and multi-agency system challenges in protecting and supporting children who have been sexually abused in the family environment. The workshop will explore the role of</p>

	<p>children’s services leaders in enabling and supporting the very best multi-agency practice.</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie Hudson, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel • Jenny Coles, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel • Ian Dean, Centre Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse • Anna Glinski, Centre Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse <p>Chair: Tania Townsend, Vice Chair, ADCS SPI Policy Committee</p>
Workshop D	<p>Waiting well</p> <p>With the demand for autism and ADHD assessments rising sharply in recent years, how are local authorities meeting the needs of these children while they wait for diagnosis? We explore examples of how LAs are working with schools, children, parents and carers to ensure that children are ‘waiting well’.</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee-Anne Farach, Medway Council • Julia Cox, Medway Council • William Rigg, Bristol City Council • Mark Patton, Newcastle City Council. <p>Chair: Harmesh Bhogal, Director of Children’s Services, Bedford Borough Council</p>
7.30pm	Drinks Reception
8.00pm	Dinner
Friday 12 July	
9.00am – 10.15am	<p>Keeping children and young people safe in their communities</p> <p>National policy responses to rising violence in communities too often focus on crime and punishment rather than prevention or early help and have not focused enough on disproportionality. The root causes of harm, and the societal conditions that allow abuse and exploitation to flourish, have similarly been overlooked but will be explored in this session.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Carlene Firmin, Durham University • Phil East, Salford Foundation • Dr Karla Goodman, London Innovation and Improvement Alliance <p>Chair: Florence Kroll, Chair of ALDCS and DCS Royal Borough of Greenwich Council</p>
10.15am – 10.45am	Refreshment Break
10.45am – 12.00pm	Childhood Matters

	<p>In the wake of the general election, this closing session provides an opportunity to articulate our future hopes and ambitions for children, young people and families. The panel, and delegates, will share their priorities, asks of ourselves and others to ensure that childhood really does matter.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Smith, ADCS President • Anna Feuchtwang, National Children’s Bureau • Samuel Remi-Akinwale, Young Manchester • Justin Russell, Department for Education <p>Chair/Facilitator: Patrick Butler, The Guardian</p>
12.00pm – 12.15pm	President’s closing remarks
12.15pm	Close of conference. Take-away lunch provided