



Shared Futures in Social Work

17 March 2025

Birmingham Conference and Events Centre, 9.30am-4.30pm

Event Sponsor



BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST

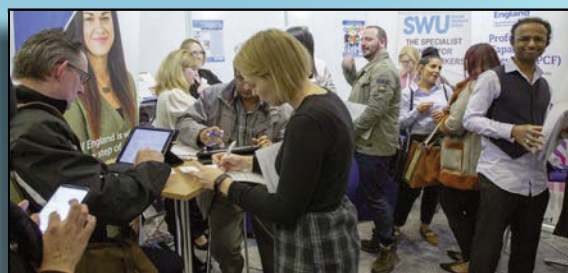
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Social Work Today



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jobs fair

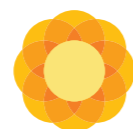


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TO FIND OUT WHY
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Register on our jobs site:



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CHILDREN'S TRUST



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Herefordshire Council

JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY

Experience personal growth, continuous support and the opportunity to see where we can take your career.

Take the first step today and join us on our journey to a brighter future!

We would love to have you on board
www.spiritofherefordshire.com/children-young-people/

[herefordshire.gov.uk](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)

✕ f @ in hfdscouncil



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Subscribe for free today

Social Work News

Receive daily e-news bulletins on the latest issues affecting professionals in the social work sector. Receive one email with everything at 10am, every day.

Social Work Jobs

Find the latest jobs from social work employers across the UK, whether you work with children, adults or in mental health. Special rates for exhibitors at this event with unlimited jobs packages including Job of the Week, online recruitment events and campaign banners.

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Discover Online Events and resources for your CPD – from exclusive webinars and podcasts to recruitment open days.

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Visitor information

You will find the COMPASS Jobs Fair team on Stand 25

You'll recognise us by our blue/white T-shirts and we can help you with any queries or requests.

The Social Work Social – 4pm

Please join us at the Compass stand at 4pm for a drink to celebrate your day and the start of World Social Work Day celebrations.

Food and drink

Food and drink is available throughout the day at in the Exhibition Hall, next to COMPASS on Stand 25. The food is Greek mediterranean, serving gyros, hotdogs, salads and pastries with vegetarian and vegan options.

Seminar entry

Entry to all seminars and **the Social Work Cinema** is free, but numbers are restricted to keep everyone safe. Seating is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so please arrive in good time to ensure you get a seat.

Would you like to exhibit next year?

To reserve an exhibition stand at the COMPASS Jobs Fair in Birmingham next year, or at any of our other events, please speak to one of the COMPASS team on Stand 25. It is advisable to reserve your stand early as the exhibition sells out very quickly.

Photographs

Photographs are taken throughout the day. These will be used in promotional literature for future events. Attendance at the event signifies acceptance of this.

CPD certificates

If you would like printed certification of your full day of CPD training, come to Stand 24 at 4.00pm. You can also hold onto your copy of this event programme to assist in providing evidence of the day's training for your CPD portfolio.

Staffordshire County Council
With pride. With purpose. With you.

Staffordshire Careers

When you join us, we'll give you the support you need to do your job, achieve the best outcomes, and transform lives. And we'll help you to grow and develop, every step of the way. Whether it's through the latest technology for hybrid working, a creative new practice, or a better work-life balance, we're committed to encouraging the very best results for you too.

Roles in Children's Services
With our new 'Social Work Progression Pathway' you can plan your career journey from Newly Qualified Social Worker to Advanced and then Practice Lead.

Roles in Adult's Services
We're optimistic about the future and ambitious for our residents. Why not join us in one of our caring careers with opportunities including Front Line Care roles and Social Work/ Professional roles.

Visit us at stand 20
Find out more and apply: www.careersatstaffordshire.co.uk

NHS Midlands Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust
A Keele University Teaching Trust

Connections Count more than ever in 2025

A welcome from James Thomas, Chief Executive, Birmingham Children's Trust



James Thomas, Chief Executive, Birmingham Children's Trust

Birmingham Children's Trust is delighted, once again, to be sponsoring the COMPASS Birmingham Jobs Fair, and to be offering seminars designed to tell you more about our work in the Trust.

We are mindful of the continued financial challenge we face in

Birmingham, but we are continuing to make progress in offering the best possible services and support to children, young people, and families in the city.

Our most recent Ofsted focused visit in 2024 was extremely encouraging. Ofsted noted that 'our social workers use our relational practice model effectively' and highlighted

that 'children are listened to, including their views where and with who they live'.

Continuing to improve

This positive feedback does not mean we are standing still, as we have already made significant progress in piloting our improvement programme: 'Trust 2025', creating the foundations for national children's social care reforms. This ties into part of the government's children's social care implementation strategy, 'Stable homes, built on love'.

We want as many of our children to live with their family or wider networks where this is in their best interest. We know that for some children we do need to care for them, we want them to live in stable and well-

supported homes, whether that be in a family-based setting or a children's home.

Everything we are doing in our 'Trust 2025' programme creates the system conditions to achieve our aspirations. Find more about 'Trust 2025' in one of our seminars today.

Supporting our staff

Whilst we are being innovative, we are constantly reminded how hard the job is that we ask social workers to do. Now, more than ever, we must ensure that our support to those working on the front line is the very best it can be: supervision, learning and development, emotional health and wellbeing, trauma-informed support are all critical ingredients to making good social work possible in difficult times.

Our practice model brings all of these elements together, and the name of the model – 'Connections Count' – is exactly what we are making sure happens on a daily basis. This is a model that we have supported our staff to follow, and one we are proud to call our own.

We remain committed to a system that keeps children safely within their families, and which supports children for whom this is not possible to achieve their fullest potential. And we believe the best way to do this is by creating a culture that values, nurtures and supports our staff to be the best we can be.

Social work with children and families is important, interesting, and noble. I'm glad you chose it for your career. I'm glad I chose it for mine. I hope you have some interesting conversations during your day in Birmingham. I hope that most of them are with Birmingham Children's Trust. We'll be pleased to talk with you.

Seminars by the Trust

10.20 – 11.00 Room: *Connect*

Trust 2025: A new approach to earlier help and support – keeping children safe and helping families thrive

Shamah Ayub-Ali; Luisa Fraser; and Nadeem Afzal, 'Trust 2025' Workstream Leads, Birmingham Children's Trust

11.00 – 11.40 Room: *Innovate*

Connections Count: Developing a relationship-based, trauma-informed, system-wide practice model for children's social care

Dr Marie Kershaw, Clinical Psychologist & Head of Psychologically Informed Practice, Birmingham Children's Trust

12.10 – 12.50 Room: *Innovate*

An interview with an ASYE: Real life case studies

Sophie Gilbert, Head of the Learning Academy and Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE), Birmingham Children's Trust

2.20 – 3.00 Room: *Innovate*

Prioritising the child's voice: Direct work in practice

Adam Birchall, Principal Social Worker, Birmingham Children's Trust

Please note: All seminars are first-come, first-served so please arrive in good time to ensure you have a seat.

Register on our jobs site



A national conference for
social work and
social care professionals

The Social Work Show

Hilton Deansgate Manchester
6 October 2025

"I attended this event last year and due to a very helpful and insightful experience I promised myself to commit to this every year! I am pleased to say that again I am feeling more enriched with knowledge and support which is so valuable."

Social Worker

A COMPASS event
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Please see the Exhibition Plan on page 15 for stand positions

Birmingham Children's Trust Stand 1

Birmingham Children's Trust exists to make a positive difference for vulnerable children, young people and families in Birmingham and our focus is clear. Talk to us about the improvements we have already made in children's social work, and how you can be part of our journey. Join us so we can support you in your future career development.



BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST

BASW England & SWU

Stand 14

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) is the UK's professional membership organisation supporting over 22,000 social workers. We champion social work and help members achieve the highest professional standards.

The Social Workers Union (SWU) is the only UK trade union for, and run by, qualified and registered social workers.



COMPASS

Stand 25

Come and meet the team who put this event together. We specialise in events, marketing, and publishing for the social work and social care sector. We organise three events throughout the year across the UK with the COMPASS Jobs Fairs in London and Birmingham, and the Social Work Show in Manchester, as well as producing social work publications.



Cafcass

Stand 15

At Cafcass, we represent children in family court cases in England, independently advising family courts what is safe for children and in their best interests. We put their needs, wishes and feelings first, making sure that children's voices are heard at the heart of the family court setting.



The Caldecott Foundation

Stand 13

The Caldecott Foundation is a not-for-profit charity delivering specialist therapeutic residential care, education, and foster care to traumatised children or those with specific educational needs. Our Relational Model of Care and Education ensures that we support children and young people to feel safe by developing nurturing, nourishing, and safe relationships.



Cellmark Stand 10

Cellmark provides court-approved DNA testing and forensic quality Hair Drug testing & Alcohol testing services to members of the public, local authority Children's Services teams, government departments and the legal profession. We will be running a DNA sampler training workshop at this event which will cover mouth swab (buccal) sample collection and chain of custody for court approved DNA tests.



Coventry City Council

Stand 18 & 21

As a 'Good' Authority, we have built something special—where children and families are at the heart of everything we do. Every family deserves the best outcomes, and we are committed to empowering and supporting them to create lasting change. By working in partnership with families, we manage risk collaboratively, value their voices, and strengthen their ability to thrive.



Forensic Testing Service

Stand 7

Forensic Testing Service (FTS) specialises in comprehensive forensic drug and alcohol investigations, providing expert analysis tailored for legal proceedings. Unlike routine testing labs, FTS offers in-depth evaluations that ensure accurate interpretations, reducing the risk of misleading results. Their advanced approach is crucial for reliable, evidence-based decisions in family court cases.



Did you know that all exhibitors listed here have an employer profile on the COMPASS website?
www.compassjobsfair.com

Byw, dysgu, gweithio, chwarae ym Mhowys
Live, learn, work, play in Powys



ni i wneud
gwahaniaeth
i fywydau
plant,
pobl ifanc
ac oedolion
yng nghalon
Canolbarth Cymru

make a
difference
to the lives
of children,
young people
and adults
in the heart of
Mid-Wales

Ymunwch â'n tîm cefnogol

Join our supportive team



➔ www.powys.gov.uk/jobs

🐦 @PCCvacancies

📘 @PCCJobs



Gloucestershire
County Council



Stand 6

Discover the magic of Gloucestershire! Live, work, and thrive in a community that values what matters most to you. Enjoy exceptional career pathways, training opportunities, and a generous reward package. With flexible working and a supportive environment, your ideal social work career awaits. Join us today and make a difference!

Herefordshire
Council



Stand 5

At Herefordshire Council we're working hard to provide the best services possible for our children and families. We're looking for individuals who share our passion. Join us on our journey - take the first steps towards your new career and come and meet our team on Stand 5.

My CWA

Stand 11

Domestic Abuse Experts from MyCWA provide trauma-informed, whole-family-focused training and consultancy for professionals across all sectors, prioritising victim safety and accountability for perpetrators. With nearly 50 years' experience, MyCWA offers tailored support for survivors, children, and those exhibiting harmful behaviours, fostering a community free from abuse.



Oxfordshire
County Council



Stand 23

Empowering change - children's social care. Together, we're the moment makers. Together, we're shaping the future of children's social care in Oxfordshire. Our Children, Education & Families directorate is committed to delivering lasting change, helping children, young people, and families thrive. With a restorative, relational practice approach, we're proud to be rated "Good" by Ofsted. Visit Stand 23 to explore opportunities at OCC.

ParentAssess ●●● ParentAssess®

Stand 12

ParentAssess is the most widely-recognised and accepted specialist parenting assessment framework in the country. 99% of social workers who attend ParentAssess training would recommend it to others.

We offer a wide range of courses so please visit our stand for further information on the training options available.

Plymouth City
Council



Stand 4

Plymouth City Council's Children's Services offers a dynamic environment where you can make a real difference for children and families. Join a dedicated team in a vibrant coastal city, delivering innovative support in safeguarding, education, and family care. Enjoy work-life balance while shaping brighter futures.

Powys County Council



Stand 19

Powys County Council's Social Services offer compassionate support for children, adults, and families. We provide essential care, promote independence, and ensure safety.

From safeguarding to community support, our dedicated teams are here to help people live well and thrive in Powys.

Protective Care
Group



Stand 3a

Who are Protective Care Group? We care for and empower young people with complex needs and challenging behaviour from severe trauma. Partnering with local authorities, we provide compassionate, tailored care.

By investing in our teams, we help Support Workers excel, ensuring children receive the opportunities they've missed and the support they deserve.

Have you booked your ticket for the
Social Work Show?

6 October 2025
Hilton Deansgate,
Manchester

Save the date for next year's

COMPASS jobs fair Birmingham

16 March 2026

The COMPASS Jobs Fairs are the largest one-day conferences and exhibitions in the sector with a range of exhibitors including local authorities, service providers, charities and more.

Registration is already open for visitors to book their place at the next events.

Network with potential employers

Meet organisations to discuss current issues, innovative practice and pioneering services in social care.

- **The leading social work recruitment events in the UK**
Established as *the* place to take the next step in your career
- **Opportunities for social workers at any level to find their next job**
Meet potential employers face to face and discover the latest career information
- **Meet local authorities on the day**
to discuss your specific needs and jobs
- **Independent providers and voluntary sector organisations**
will update you on current projects and innovations that are changing social work
- **Specialist providers**
showcasing the latest in high-quality care for adults and children



Advance your career

Discover the latest career advice and guidance relevant to social workers. Take advantage of expert advice seminars with tips on finding the right employer for you, interviewing successfully for social work jobs, and taking the next step in your career.

The Social Work Cinema

In addition to the comprehensive seminar programme, the events will feature screenings of films on the subject of social work and social care, with topics including the Mental Capacity Act, adoption and fostering social work, age assessments, and the mental wellbeing of older people in care homes.

Register now for your free ticket at www.compassjobsfair.com

Exhibitors

Richardson Care

Stand 8

Our specialist residential care and rehabilitation services are tailored to meet the needs of each individual, whether they have an acquired brain injury, learning disabilities, a combination of associated complex needs and/or mental health needs. We offer a holistic approach and comprehensive care packages supported by our multi-disciplinary clinical team.



Richardson Care
Caring is in our DNA

Staffordshire County Council



Stand 20

We're always looking for caring people to join our Children's and Adults teams. We'll have team members such as Social Workers, Practice Leads, and our recruitment team on hand to talk about roles and what it's like to work with us! We're a friendly bunch so come and say hi!

Stoke on Trent City Council



Bar Area – First Floor

Join our team! We're looking for ambitious, passionate, and caring individuals to join us on our journey. With families and communities at the heart of everything we do, we're committed to making a real difference. If you want to help improve lives and shape brighter futures, this is your chance.

Worcestershire County Council



Stand 16

Worcestershire County Council are a 'Good' Ofsted rated Local Authority. We offer comprehensive support to children young people and their families. The core services include early help, targeted support and safeguarding. Each team holds a unique set of skills and qualities that ensures our services are tailored. Worcestershire County Council is a learning organisation that holds a real buzz within the workforce.

Sandwell Council



Stand 3

Our most valuable asset is our staff. Make a real difference and join Sandwell Council. Staff have access to various benefits, including generous annual leave entitlement, fantastic pension, and training and development. We are continually investing in the Borough to support our residents.

Visit www.wmjobs.co.uk and search for Sandwell.

Social Work Today



Social Work Today

Event Media Partner - Stand 24

Stay up to date with all things social work via our free daily e-newsletter sent out every weekday. With information on social work jobs, news, events, CPD and more, Social Work Today is *the* platform for the social work sector. To be a part of this global community and to find out more visit www.socialworktoday.co.uk.

Fuel your day with a complimentary hot drink from Social Work Today

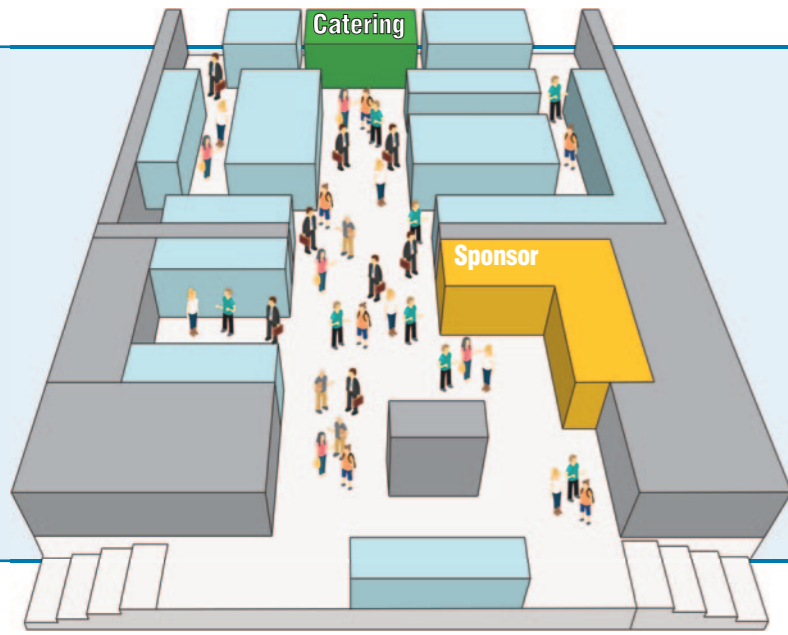
Social Work Today would like to thank you for the hard work you do, by providing you with complimentary tea, coffee or hot chocolate during your visit to the COMPASS Jobs Fair.

Visit Stand 24 next door to the barista, sign up for free and get your sticker to qualify for your FREE hot drink.



Find your way around

Exhibition plan



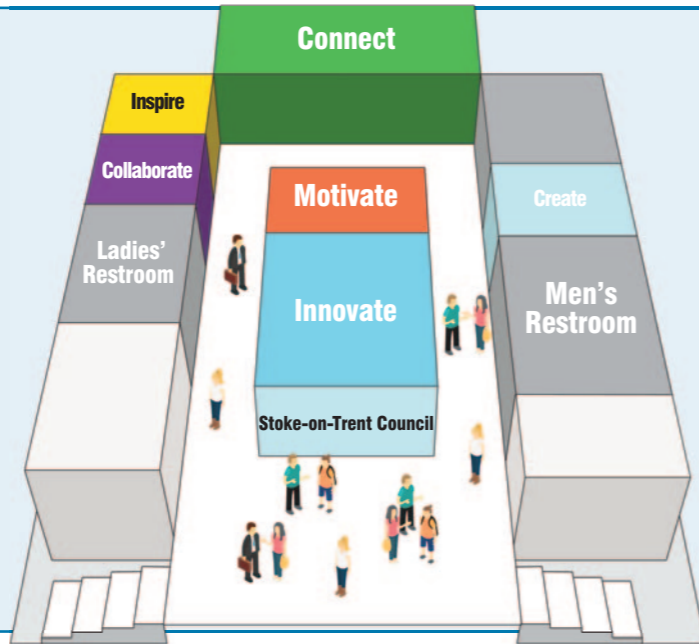
On this floor

- COMPASS**
- Catering**
- Exhibition**
- Birmingham Children's Trust**
- Barista & SWT**

2nd Floor

On this floor

- Innovate**
- Connect**
- Motivate**
- Collaborate**
- Create**
- The Social Work Cinema**
- Stoke-on-Trent Council**

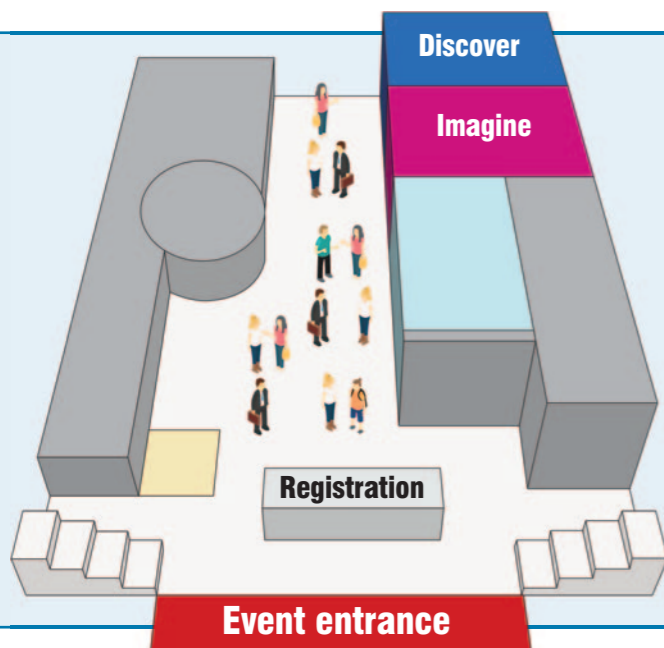


1st Floor

On this floor

- Event entrance**
- Registration**
- Imagine**
- Discover**

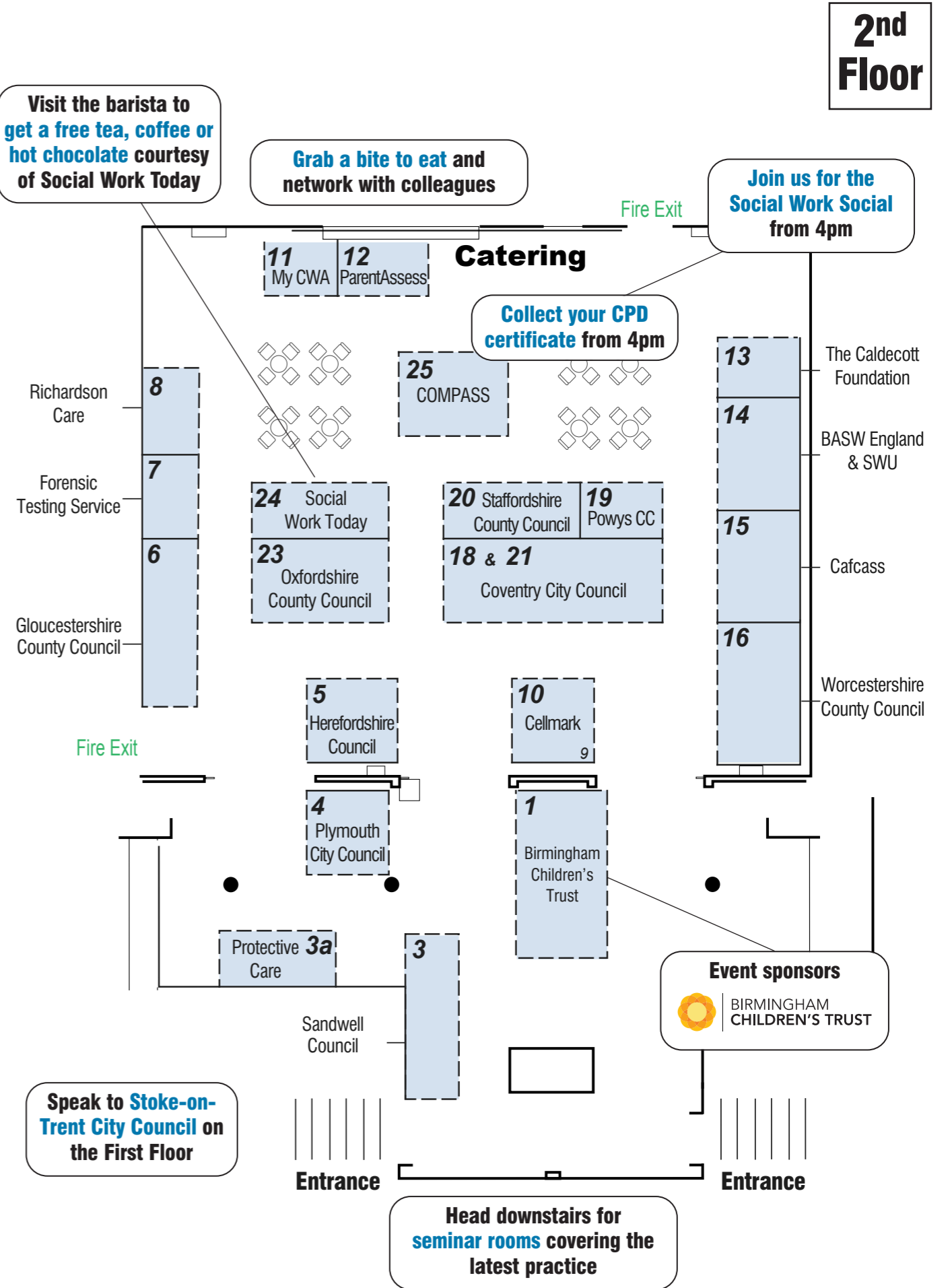
Ground Floor



Visit the barista to get a free tea, coffee or hot chocolate courtesy of Social Work Today

Grab a bite to eat and network with colleagues

Join us for the Social Work Social from 4pm



Shared Futures in Social Work

17 March

Birmingham Conference
and Events Centre,
9.30am-4.30pm

Event Sponsor



BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST

Media Partner



Social Work Today

Room Discover

10.00 – 10.40

Finding the right employer for you

Vicki Shevlin,
COMPASS

11.00 – 11.40

Transforming practice development:
Contributing meaningfully to the
identity of Social Work

Gloucestershire County Council

12.00 – 12.40

Managing stress for
practitioners across the public
sector: Who has responsibility?

Dr Neil Thompson

1.00 – 1.40

How to effectively
engage perpetrators
of domestic abuse

MyCWA

2.00 – 2.40

The neuroscience of
burnout and the impact
on service user outcomes

Turn Over a New LEAF

3.00 – 3.40

How might viewing the parent-child
relationship as our 'client' improve
practice in children's social care?

Dr Alice Loving

Room Imagine

10.30 – 11.10

Professionalism in
social work

BASW England

11.30 – 12.10

Relentlessly restorative
relationships: Working together
with children and families

Cafcass

12.30 – 1.10

Having difficult
conversations in social work:
Golden tips for practice

Worcestershire CC

1.30 – 2.10

Social work as
problem solving

Dr Neil Thompson

2.30 – 3.10

Leadership in social
work practice: Influence
and impact

Imara Development

from 4pm only

Collect your
CPD certificate

Stand 25 in the
Exhibition Hall

Room Innovate

10.00 – 10.40

Is parental alienation a
child protection issue in
social work?

Coventry University

11.00 – 11.40

Developing a relationship-based,
trauma-informed, system-wide
practice model

Birmingham Children's Trust (BCT)

12.10 – 12.50

An interview with
an ASYE: Real life
case studies

BCT

1.20 – 2.00

Parents with learning
disabilities: Opening the
door to new ways of working

ParentAssess

2.20 – 3.00

Prioritising the
child's voice: Direct
work in practice

BCT

3.20 – 4.00

Engaging children in decision-
making: Making young people's
voices the loudest ones heard

Cafcass

Room Motivate

11.00 – 11.40

The Relational Social Work Podcast: Live! with guests
Dr Beverley Barnett-Jones, Dr. Simon Howarth, Tim
Fisher, Richard Devine & Hannah McCowen

Coventry City Council

2.10 – 2.50

Making time for
relationship-based practice:
The 80:20 Campaign

BASW England

3.20 – 4.00

No longer invisible:
Empowering social work

Imara Development

from 4pm

Join exhibitors and visitors for a
complimentary drink to network and discuss
the day's learning at the Social Work Social

In the Exhibition Hall

Room Connect

10.20 – 11.00

A new approach to earlier help
and support – keeping children
safe and helping families thrive

Birmingham Children's Trust

11.30 – 12.10

Challenges of rural social work:
Language, legislation and
cultural sensitivity

Powys County Council

12.40 – 1.20

Strengths-based social work,
with adults in a prison setting

Staffordshire County Council

1.50 – 2.30

Are children at risk from
substance misuse?

Forensic Testing Service

3.00 – 3.40

Moving forward: The next stage
of your social work journey

Vicki Shevlin, COMPASS

Room Collaborate

11.40 – 12.20

Strategies for interview
success

Vicki Shevlin, COMPASS

12.40 – 1.20

Masterclass on meeting the Social
Work England CPD requirements

Dr Carol Stewart

Room Create

1.00 – 2.00 (in Create)

Develop your career and become
a certified DNA sample collector

Cellmark

Room Collaborate

2.10 – 3.00

Best practice when
returning to social work

Dr Carol Stewart

from 4pm

Join exhibitors and visitors for
the Social Work Social

In the Exhibition Hall

Social Work Cinema Inspire

webinars and short films on social work topics

10.00

When You Know...Childbirth
in the asylum system

11.30

Fatigue risk
management in health
and social care

1.00

Release from Detention: Mental
Health Act 1983 and Court of
Protection

2.40

Addressing gaps in
co-production

3.00

Supporting d/Deaf children:
putting the child at the
centre of decision making

3.40

Mental Capacity Myths –
a video explainer

Collect your CPD certificate on Stand 25 only from 4.00pm

10.00 – 10.40

Finding the right employer for you

Vicki Shevlin, Social Work Trainer, COMPASS

In this interactive session, social workers will explore strategies for choosing their ideal employer and job opportunities aligned with their professional aspirations.

Vicki will look at asking the right questions to help your decision making for job applications, and share ideas for what to focus on before you apply.

By the end of this session you'll feel confident about choosing the job that is right for you, and ready to network with all the incredible employers waiting to meet you at the COMPASS Jobs Fair.



11.00 – 11.40

Transforming practice development: Contributing meaningfully to the identity of Social Work

Jo Sutherland, Principal Social Worker; Plus members of the Practice Development Team, and Social Work and Social Care Leads, Gloucestershire County Council

Often, the work of adult social workers is unrecognised by wider society. Join this session to celebrate the positive impact of adult social workers in protecting vulnerable adults from harm, and supporting adults to live the life that they choose to their utmost potential.

The session will be grounded in the theories that underpin the knowledgebase of social work, and will include how essential practice education is to ensuring that there is a highly-skilled workforce. There will be a specific emphasis on supporting a professional identity and the clear role that adult social work practitioners play in often multi-disciplinary teams.

Join this session to discover more about whether a greater sense of professional identity is crucial for the future of social work; and how social workers can be supported throughout each step of their career journey to contribute meaningfully to the identity of social work.



12.00 – 12.40

Managing stress for practitioners across the public sector: Who has responsibility?

Dr Neil Thompson, Independent Writer, Educator and Adviser & Visiting Professor, The Open University

Stress is a major problem in today's pressurised workplaces, but what causes it and who is responsible for dealing with it? These are key questions. Well-known social work author Professor Neil Thompson has been writing and teaching about stress for decades. In this presentation he warns against the oversimplified approaches to stress that are very common. He argues that tackling stress in an ill-informed way has the potential to make a bad situation worse.

Join Neil Thompson's seminar examining stress and who has responsibility for it.



1.00 – 1.40

The Engage Model: How to effectively engage perpetrators of domestic abuse

Saskia Lightburn-Ritchie, Chief Executive, My CWA

In this engaging presentation, Saskia Lightburn-Ritchie, Chief Executive of My CWA, will explore the challenges that can occur when working with those who show harmful behaviours, specifically in relation to sustained levels of engagement and participant dropout rates. Drawing from both the lessons learned from our own practice and developments in research, the Engage project has been designed to provide a route to engagement with individuals who have convictions or are suspected of domestic abuse-related incidents towards an intimate partner.

Saskia will explore how the Engage project provides a solution to overcoming these key challenges through a suite of early interventions such as engaging those who harm in custody suites, offering support to those on bail as well as Engage awareness raising activities to encourage a sustained move from pre-contemplation to contemplation on the cycle of change. Engage supports the effective application of an understanding and management approach to domestic abuse support services and ultimately highlights the essential nature of engaging those who harm as a key part of domestic abuse work with families.



2.00 – 2.40

The neuroscience of burnout and the impact on service user outcomes

Jan Carpenter, Qualified Social Worker and Founder, Turn Over a New LEAF

Fear-based emotions are all too common in the Social Care sector due to a range of factors. It can affect wellbeing, performance and quality of life and work, making it everyone's business.

This workshop will cover what fear is and what causes it; the nervous system's response to stress; and how to let go of fear and stress. Join Jan to develop practices that will help improve your response to stress and let go of fear-based emotions.



3.00 – 3.40

How might viewing the parent-child relationship as our 'client' improve practice in children's social care?

Dr Alice Loving, Attachment, Trauma and Mentalization Specialist

This talk will give a brief overview of 3 theoretical frameworks that practitioners can apply in their practice to better understand the relational dynamics within the families they are working with. These are Attachment, Trauma and Mentalization.

Participants will explore how each of these frameworks can enhance parenting assessments and assist practitioners with methods of support that can increase the chances of positive outcomes for children and families.

10.30 – 11.10

Professionalism in social work

Wayne Reid, Professional Officer, BASW England

This seminar will explore values and ethics; what being a professional means; its relevance to social work; the challenges; what professionalism means in practice; important notes to self and what BASW does for social workers.

Join Wayne for this interactive session with an opportunity for you to have your questions answered.



11.30 – 12.10

Relentlessly restorative relationships: Working together with children and families

Dawn Goodwin, Principal Social Worker, Cafcass

Join this learning event on relationship-based practice, exploring how Cafcass is working with children and families to build relationships and work collaboratively to provide all children with an exceptional experience when engaging with their services.

The session will be facilitated by Cafcass Principal Social Worker, Dawn Goodwin who will share why the building of relationships and working in a relentlessly restorative way is key in achieving the best outcomes for children.

You will hear how using restorative, relationship and strengths-based practice supports engagement with children and their parents in both public and private law proceedings and hear about examples of how social workers have supported children during their proceedings which highlights the value and impact of this approach for children.

You will also hear about the difference made by the practice framework, Together with Children and Families.

Join this session to consider how relationship and strengths-based practice can support engagement with children and young people, and understand what it means to work restoratively with children and families, and to hear examples of what this looks like in practice.



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12.30 – 1.10

Having difficult conversations in social work: Golden tips for practice

Hardeep Sandhu & Emma Porter, Team Managers, Worcestershire County Council



Social workers should value relationships and believe these are core to everything they do. They recognise that they often must discuss emotionally challenging topics with the people they support. Therefore, this session will cover key messages from research and a range of tools to develop relational practice in this context.

Hardeep and Emma will share real examples and experiences to develop your ability to engage in meaningful conversations in which individuals feel respected and valued. The session will be interactive, and you will leave with some tips from people working on the ground whilst also hearing the voices of people with lived experiences.

1.30 – 2.10

Social work as problem solving

Dr Neil Thompson, Independent Writer, Educator and Adviser & Visiting Professor, The Open University



Practitioners across social services and managers in all sectors are constantly faced with problems of various kinds. Each of these is unique, however there will be general patterns that we can learn from. This seminar will draw upon Dr Neil Thompson's extensive experience in teaching and training problem-solving, providing students, practitioners and managers with a powerful repertoire of tools that can make a real difference in a wide range of situations.

2.30 – 3.10

Leadership in social work practice: Influence and impact

Joe Z Mairura, Independent Social Worker and Trainer, Imara Development Programmes



This session is relevant for: Senior Practitioners and Social Workers aspiring to become leaders of teams, as well as current Heads of Service, Service Managers, and Team Managers.

Conscious leadership in social work practice is an essential vehicle for confident, capable, and impactful teams and good practice and will contribute to transforming the lives of clients.

Join Joe to learn about the transformative impact of 'conscious leadership' on individual practitioners, teams and service users.

11.00 – 11.40

The Relational Social Work Podcast: Live!

Matt Clayton, Strategic Lead for Children in Care, Children with Disabilities and Care Leavers & Hannah Bedford, Team Manager, Hosts of the Relational Social Work Podcast

Take part in a live podcast recording of The Relational Social Work Podcast, as the hosts are joined by a panel of experts for a focus on relationships, hope and love in social work. Guests will include:

Dr. Beverley Barnett-Jones - Associate Director for System and Impact at the Nuffield Justice Observatory

Dr. Simon Howarth – University of Birmingham Lecturer & Co-Author of ‘Eroding the Right to Family Life: Human Rights violations in Britain’s child protection systems’

Tim Fisher – Co-Host of "Relational Activism in Social Work" Podcast & Practice Lead for the Charity Kinship

Richard Devine - Co-Host of "Relational Activism in Social Work" Podcast & Consultant Social Worker

Hannah McCowen - National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum Manager at Catch 22

There will be an opportunity for participants in the workshop to pose questions to the podcast guests, with the session being recorded, and put out as an episode of the podcast the following week.





Relationships are central to social work practice. The Relational Social Work Podcast explores the importance of connection and relationships in social work, celebrating excellent and innovative practice ‘with’ amazing children, young people and families, and having honest conversations about some of the struggles which we can face in children and families social work.



Each episode is a conversation between hosts, Matt Clayton and Hannah Bedford, with prominent guests from the field of social work

2.10 – 2.50

Making time for relationship-based practice: The 80:20 Campaign

Andrew Reece, Professional Officer, BASW England

BASW England’s 80:20 campaign advocates for social workers to be able to spend the majority of their time working directly with children, families or adults rather than on administrative and process driven tasks. Through creative change processes, the campaign support practitioners to find the opportunities to put relationships at the heart of social work practice.

To support the campaign to move from theory to practice, a suite of four ‘Top Tips’ resources has been created with BASW members, people with lived experience and key stakeholders from across the sector, including a resource to enable relationship-based social work in digital spaces.

In this session you will hear from Andrew Reece, BASW England Professional Officer who worked on their development, find out more about these new resources and have the opportunity to hear how they are being used in practice and explore how you might use them in your workplace.



3.20 – 4.00

No longer invisible: Empowering social work

Joe Z Mairura, Independent Social Worker and Trainer, Imara Development Programmes

As social workers, you have a lot to offer, your service users, those who care for them, your profession, employers, community and the world at large. Yet professionals are often left feeling unappreciated. You came into this profession to have influence and make an impact transforming the lives, not to be commoditised.


If this sounds like you, join this session to explore how you can reclaim your joy and zest for your career and life, and how to put yourself first without feeling guilty.




Fuel your day with a complimentary hot drink from Social Work Today

Social Work Today would like to thank you for the hard work you do, by providing you with complimentary tea, coffee or hot chocolate during your visit to the COMPASS Jobs Fair.

Visit Stand 24 next door to the barista, sign up for free and get your sticker to qualify for your FREE hot drink.



10.00 – 10.40

Is parental alienation a child protection issue in social work?

Nushra Mansuri, Assistant Professor in Social Work, Coventry University



Nushra is currently undertaking research on social workers' experiences of dealing with parental alienation cases as there is currently no guidance on this issue. However, social workers have been criticised for falling short on their knowledge and skills by judges where cases have been in the court arena.

Join this session to find out social workers' actual experiences of children being negatively influenced by one parent, or not having a relationship with their other parent. Nushra will share what we know about parental alienation including its controversies and explore with delegates how social workers should respond to this issue.

11.00 – 11.40

Connections Count: Developing a relationship-based, trauma-informed, system-wide practice model for children's social care

Dr Marie Kershaw, Clinical Psychologist & Head of Psychologically Informed Practice, Birmingham Children's Trust



This session will give an overview of Birmingham Children's Trust's 'Connections Count' practice model; moving beyond 'ACES' to better understand the factors that are important in supporting children, young people and families to thrive. The practice model aims to give a consistent language and framework for practice that not only supports their approach to direct work with children, young people and families, but also informs the organisational culture, leadership, commitment to equality and diversity and our approach to staff wellbeing; because "Well-Being leads to Well-doing" (Kenya Wellness Foundation).

12.10 – 12.50

An interview with an ASYE: Real life case studies

Sophie Gilbert, Head of the Learning Academy and Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE), Birmingham Children's Trust



In this seminar, Sophie Gilbert, Head of the Learning Academy at Birmingham Children's Trust will talk with newly-qualified social workers about their transition from student to social worker, including top tips for those about to begin their ASYE and what working as a newly-qualified social worker really looks and feels like.

Collect your CPD certificate from 4.00pm at the COMPASS stand

1.20 – 2.00

Parents with learning disabilities: Opening the door to new ways of working



Jo James, Social Worker and Trainer, ParentAssess

When there are questions about the learning capacity of a parent, how should social workers adapt to support, assess and enable them to learn?

Taking in the law, policy and guidance, we'll be exploring some of the ways in which we can recognise additional learning needs in parents and adapt how we work with them. We'll think about the need for Children's and Adults' services to work together and how addressing these parents' needs can improve services for EVERY parent.

2.20 – 3.00

Prioritising the child's voice: Direct work in practice



Adam Birchall, Principal Social Worker, Birmingham Children's Trust

This session will give an overview of what is meant by direct work and how it can be used effectively and enrich practice.

Join Adam to discuss different direct work tools and techniques and give examples of how practitioners have used these in practice to give children and their families a voice.

3.20 – 4.00

Engaging children in decision-making: Making young people's voices the loudest ones heard



Danielle Roberts-Wareing, Service Manager; and Jennifer Lee, Assistant Lead, Social Work Academy, Cafcass

Join Cafcass and the Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) in exploring some of the ways social workers at Cafcass strive for children and young people's voices to be the loudest of all voices heard in the family courts.

While Danielle and Jennifer have different styles, they both make sure that children's uniqueness and differences are embraced and reflected in their approaches. Together, they will share with you their wealth of knowledge, skills and experience in finding ways to provide children and young people with the best chance of feeling able to develop trust, allowing them to express their truth, experiences, hopes, thoughts and wishes.

Young people from the FJYPB, along with Danielle and Jennifer, will be collaborating with you to focus on what you must do to create a relationship with children and young people that allows them to experience social work and social work process in a restorative way. Bring your best thinking and be prepared to take part! Jennifer and Danielle are big advocates for shared learning so bring your best ideas to share, as no social worker's toolbox is ever too full!

10.20 – 11.00

Trust 2025: A new approach to earlier help and support – keeping children safe and helping families thrive



Shamah Ayub-Ali; Luisa Fraser; and Nadeem Afzal, 'Trust 2025' Workstream Leads, Birmingham Children's Trust

Join this engaging session to find out about Birmingham Children's Trust's improvement programme: 'Trust 2025', and how they are creating the foundations for national children's social care reforms.

Their aspiration is to help and support children and families as early as possible. They also want as many children as possible to live with their family or wider networks where this is in their best interest.

"We know that for some children we do need to care for them, we want them to live in stable and well-supported homes, whether that be in a family-based setting or a children's home. Everything we are doing in our 'Trust 2025' programme creates the system conditions to achieve our aspirations."

11.30 – 12.10

Challenges of rural social work: Language, legislation and cultural sensitivity



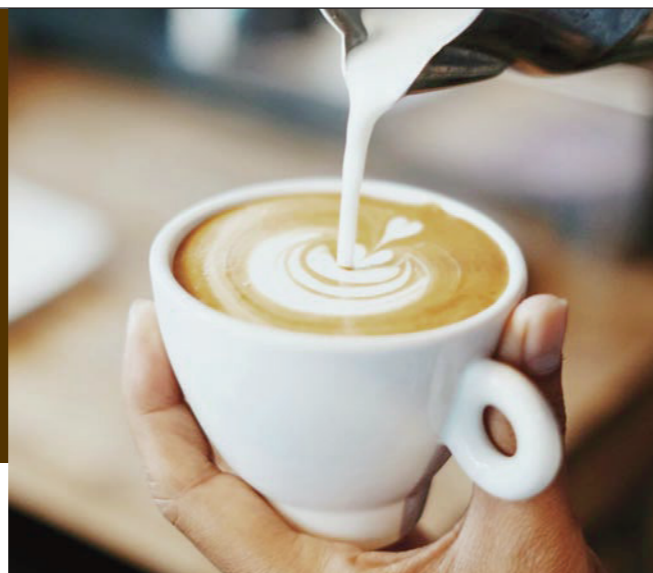
Melanie Brindle, Practice Development Manager, Powys County Council

This seminar will provide an overview of working in rural Wales as a social worker and the different cultural landscape this entails, touching on the different legislation and language; national initiatives; and the differences in continued professional development, including support provided for the first three years in practice and further qualification opportunities.

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12.40 – 1.20

Strengths-based social work with adults in a prison setting



Sara Bell, Deputy Principal Social Worker – Adults; and Nicola Aulton, Social Worker, Prisons and Approved Premises team, Staffordshire County Council

This session will give an overview of the unique Prisons and Approved Premises team for Staffordshire County Council.

Find out about the role of the social worker in the prison setting also offering the perspective of one of the team's social workers who completed their social work apprenticeship and ASYE year with team and continues to work with the team.

Come and explore some of the barriers in completing assessments with individuals in this setting and achieving strengths-based practice.

1.50 – 2.30

Are children at risk from substance misuse?



Damian World, Technical Support & Reporting Manager, Forensic Testing Service

Join this session to explore best practices in hair strand testing (HST) for the Family Court, specifically tailored for social workers.

Discover why traditional methods of instructing and reporting evidence from HST fail to meet High Court requirements and why isolated results can be more misleading than helpful. Participants will gain insights into the critical questions that should be asked to ensure that the interpretations and opinions in HST reports are both reliable and aligned with the Courts' standards.

The session will cover essential context, such as the impact of natural hair colour, dyed hair, and other factors on test results. Additionally, attendees will learn how employing best practices in HST can reduce costs and alleviate the burden on the public purse in child protection cases.

Damian will also address the crucial issue of determining when it is appropriate to test children.

3.00 – 3.40

Moving forward: The next stage of your social work journey



Vicki Shevlin, Social Worker and Trainer, COMPASS

In our final session of the day, we will be looking at what happens after the application and interview process. We will explore how to choose the right opportunity when it's offered, recognising when it's time for you to move on from a job, and how to cope when you don't get the job offer you wanted.

You'll leave with the tools and confidence to make informed decisions about the next stage of your social work journey.

11.40 – 12.20

Strategies for interview success

Vicki Shevlin, Social Worker and Trainer, COMPASS

Join us for an engaging session focused on your social work interview.

Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out, we'll cover everything you need to know to shine in your next interview.

Learn practical tips for managing nerves and anxiety, effective responses to interview questions, and showcasing your unique personality.

Discover how your social work skills are transferable to interview scenarios and gain confidence in your ability to communicate your qualifications. You'll leave feeling calm, confident and ready for your social work interview.



12.40 – 1.20

Masterclass on meeting the Social Work England CPD requirements

Dr Carol Stewart, Social Worker and Director, Chinara Enterprises Ltd

Are you a social worker struggling to meet the CPD standards set by Social Work England? Join this masterclass to equip yourself with essential knowledge, practical tips, and effective tools to help you confidently meet your CPD requirements.

Whether you're new to the profession or an experienced social worker, this masterclass will give you the tools you need to stay on top of your CPD requirements and make the process more straightforward and rewarding.

This session will be facilitated by Dr Carol Stewart, Director Chinara Enterprises Ltd, a registered social worker of over 30 years, who has extensive experience in supporting the learning and development of health and social care professionals at all levels.



2.10 – 3.00

Best practice when returning to social work

Dr Carol Stewart, Social Worker and Director, Chinara Enterprises Ltd

Join this session to understand the requirements for returning to social work practice if you have left the register or been out of practice for two years or more.

Facilitator Dr Carol Stewart, who has worked extensively on the Return to Social Work Programme, will share learning from previous programmes and provide an opportunity for qualified social workers to get more information about the steps to return to social work practice; and for employers to explore how they can support returners.



1.00 – 2.00

Develop your career and become a certified DNA sample collector

Romana Ahmed, Account Manager, Cellmark

This 1-hour session of training for 6 qualified social workers will cover mouth swab (buccal) sample collection and chain of custody for court approved DNA tests. This will give those partaking the freedom to take DNA samples at client appointments instead of having to arrange collection with a sample collector, plus add an extra skill to their CV.

Please note this session must be booked in advance. If you would like to discover if you are eligible to attend, please visit Cellmark on Stand 10.



Collect your CPD certificate from 4.00pm at the COMPASS stand

Visit the catering stand in the main Exhibition Hall

There is no need to go out for lunch, you can indulge in **Authentic Greek Flavours** without having to leave the exhibition hall.

Gyros - £7

Chicken Souvlaki, Halloumi or Falafel

All served in a pitta bread topped with tomato, onions & tzatziki or hummus

Greek Salad - £3

Cans of drink - £1



As an innovative way of extending our free programme, COMPASS offers a selection of short films covering a wide range of topics.

When You Know... Childbirth in the asylum system

10.00 NHS Race and Health Observatory

Co-created with experts by experience, the powerful film, 'When You Know...Childbirth in the asylum system', explores themes of fear, access and isolation. Developed as part of the Best for Baby Too Improvement Collaborative in Liverpool, this moving film highlights stark, personal testimonies of five women with lived experience of navigating maternity care while living under asylum restrictions.

Fatigue risk management in health and social care

11.30 Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors

Learn how historically, fatigue has not been identified as an organisational risk in the same way as other risks, even though it has a significant impact on patient and staff safety. Find out how this is being turned around and how organisations can identify the right people, the right data and the right way to recognise and address this risk.

Release from Detention: Mental Health Act 1983 and Court of Protection

1.00 Garden Court Chambers

Watch experienced legal professionals from Garden Court Chambers discuss the rapid rises in the number of applications to deprive a person of their liberty with so few successfully completed within the 21-day timeframe.

Amanda Weston KC and co discuss how concepts of capacity, objection, treatment do not appear to be universally well understood or consistently applied which leaves people in 'legal limbo' and without access to legal protection.

Co-production Week 2024: Addressing gaps in co-production

2.40 SCIE

For Co-production Week this year, Kathryn Smith, SCIE CEO, and Patrick Wood, Chair of SCIE's Co-production Steering Group, came together to discuss the theme of 'what's missing' - four key areas that need greater focus if we're going to make co-production as inclusive and as effective as possible.

They talk about the need to increase equity and diversity, demonstrate the impact of co-production, access better training and development and have clearer definitions and language around co-production and social care.

Co-production Week is SCIE's annual celebration of the benefits of co-production where we share good practice and hope to spark discussions to improve people's experience of co-production in social care.

Supporting d/Deaf children: putting the child at the centre of decision making

3.00 NSPCC Learning

Language and communication barriers faced by d/Deaf children and young people can manifest in a way that increases safeguarding risk. It's important that there are professionals who can understand and communicate with a child or young person if they need to report or disclose any issues they are experiencing.

In this podcast episode, a panel of experts from the Social Workers with Deaf Children and Professionals Working Group explore how the differing language and communication needs of d/Deaf children can affect their safety and the child protection support they receive.

Mental Capacity Myths – a video explainer

3.40 Mental Capacity Law and Policy

In the context of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, it has become clear that there are some quite odd (urban) myths out there about mental capacity. In this video, Alex Ruck Keene attempts to dispel five persistent myths surrounding Mental Capacity.

Dates for your Diary



The Social Work Show

The Social Work Show

This annual event is the place to be for social work professionals, providing an update and networking opportunity to share and learn from a community of over 1,000 visitors working in the social work and social care sector. Don't miss out and book your free ticket now and visit the Hilton Deansgate in Manchester next October.



COMPASS Jobs Fair, London

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The COMPASS Jobs Fair and Shared Futures in Social Work conference will return next year. Spend the day in central London and meet exhibitors actively looking to recruit social work and social care professionals. Update your sector knowledge or kickstart your career development by visiting one of the many stands with the country's leading social work and social care organisations. You will also be able to update your CPD for free and take part in seminars for professionals working with children, adults or in mental health.



National NQSW Conference: Launch Your Social Work Career

Social Work Today
www.socialworktoday.co.uk

Calling all final year students! Don't miss this free online conference from Social Work Today. Engage with experts from Social Work and Social Care Academies from Local Authorities, providing insight into schemes they offer ASYE social workers and get first-hand advice about career pathways and job offers.



COMPASS Jobs Fair, Birmingham

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Join us next year at the BCEC for the largest recruitment, retention and career conference and exhibition in the UK for the social work and social care sector. Meet over 40 exhibitors from the profession and access employment, training and job opportunities in social work and social care.



Recruitment support

Social Work Today
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Throughout the year, Social Work Today supports many of our clients with strategic recruitment planning for jobs, webinar and online event campaigns. If you would like to boost your advertisement campaigns, why not get in touch at hello@socialworktoday.co.uk.

Don't forget to collect your CPD certificate from the COMPASS team on Stand 25

Available only between 4.00pm – 4.30pm

To find out more about how you can take part in these events please call us on 01892 784804 or contact admin@compassjobsfair.com

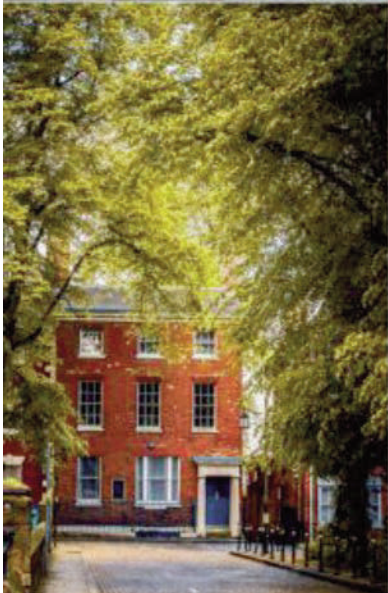
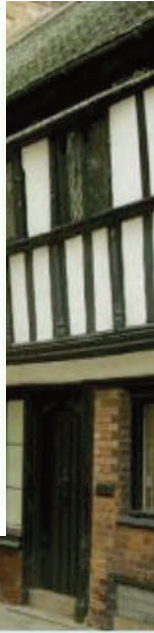


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What do we offer?

- Highly competitive salary offer
- A clear career pathway for progression
- Outstanding local government pension scheme
- A range of family-friendly policies and flexible working arrangements
- Free Parking for Social Workers
- Support and wellbeing via clinical supervision
- Interest free travel loans
- Generous annual leave allowance starting at 28 days and rising to 32 days
- Opportunity to buy up to 10 days annual leave and up to 5 unpaid days per year
- Professional Support Service offering admin support to practitioners
- Opportunity for Salary Match and Pay progression
- Salary Sacrifice Schemes; Car Scheme, Cycle to work and more
- Payroll giving scheme
- Lifestyle savings
- Access to Research in Practice and the West Midlands Teaching Partnership
- Learning & Development with access to certified courses
- Access to an award-winning Occupational Health Team
- Vibrant employee networks • Wellbeing Weeks throughout the year that offers team activities and individual sessions
- Practice Week, full of seminars and workshops with leading practice professionals

...and many more

