

The UK Social Work Conference 2025 Events Programme

Shaping Our Future: Promoting Innovation, Inclusivity and the Social Work Voice for Change

10th-11th June 2025

Quick View – 10th June

8.30am – 9.30am	Registration, refreshments and exhibition
9.30am – 11.00am	Welcome and Plenary
11.00am - 11.30am	Refreshments and exhibition
11.30am - 12.30pm	Workshops (A)
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch and exhibition
1.30pm – 2.30pm	Workshops (B)
2.30pm - 2:45pm	Refreshments and exhibition
2.45pm – 3.45pm	Workshops (C)
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Refreshments and exhibition
4.00pm – 5.00pm	Workshops (D)
5.00pm – 7.00pm	Drinks Reception and Media Awards

Quick View – 11th June

8.30am – 9.30am	Registration, refreshments and exhibition
9.30am – 11.00am	Welcome and Plenary
11.00am - 11.30am	Refreshments and exhibition
11.30am - 12.30pm	Workshops (E)
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch and exhibition
1.30pm – 2.30pm	Workshops (F)
2.30pm - 2:45pm	Refreshments and exhibition
2.45pm – 3.45pm	Workshops (G)
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Refreshments and exhibition
4.00pm – 4.30pm	Plenary and close

Room Allocations

Exhibitors – The Drum, Ground floor
Plenary/Workshop Room 1 – Theatre
 Room B – 1st & 2nd floor access
Workshop Room 2 – no. 1.218, 1st Floor
Workshop Room 3 – no. 1.219, 1st Floor

Workshop Room 4 - no. 2.220 2nd Floor
Workshop Room 5 – no. 2.218, 2nd Floor
Registration/refreshments – The Drum,
 Ground Floor
Lunch – The Market, Ground Floor



For the most up to date and detailed information on the conference program, scan the QR code or visit the BASW website.

In Depth View – 10th June

Plenary (University Place B)				
9.30am – 11.00am: Plenary				
<p>Welcome</p> <p>BASW Chair Julia Ross</p> <p>Opening Address</p> <p>Janet Daby MP, Minister for Children's Services, England</p> <p>Message from Dawn Bowden MS, Welsh Government Minister for Children & Social Care</p> <p>Presentations and discussion:</p> <p><i>Making Safeguarding Meaningful for Adolescents and Young Adults: connecting social work with children and adults</i></p> <p>Keynotes: <i>Professor Carlene Firmin & Dr Adi Cooper</i></p> <p>Panel Discussion: <i>Prof Firmin, Dr Cooper, Omar Mohamed & Caroline McDonald</i></p>				
Plenary (University Place B)	Room 2 (1.218)	Room 3 (1.219)	Room 4 (2.220)	Room 5 (2.218)
11.30am – 12.30pm: Workshops (A)				
<p>Breaking Barriers: Advancing Innovation and Inclusion Social Work to Tackle Racism and Oppression</p> <p><i>Shantel Thomas & Dr Sylvia Smith</i></p>	<p>Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and decision making in age assessment</p> <p><i>Josephine Schofield & Lisa Matthews</i></p>	<p>Shifts in social workers' engagement with digital technology and its impacts on practice</p> <p><i>Dharman Jeyasingham & Josh Behan-Devlin</i></p>	<p>Community-Orientated Practice Makes a Difference!</p> <p><i>Caroline McDonald, Lena Noto & Elaine Lyttle</i></p>	<p>Introducing the NIHR School for Social Care Research</p> <p><i>Yvonne Birks</i></p>

Plenary (University Place B)	Room 2 (1.218)	Room 3 (1.219)	Room 4 (2.220)	Room 5 (2.218)
1.30pm – 2.30pm: Workshops (B)				
<p>Leader of change: how can social work drive practice improvements & influence wider society leadership?</p> <p><i>Professor Robin Miller, Dr Luke Geoghegan, Maris Stratulis & Mark Lynes</i></p>	<p>Independents Symposium:</p> <p>Welcome and Introduction to Independent Social Work Committee</p> <p>and</p> <p>Advice and Representation/SWU</p> <p><i>Tracy Liu</i></p>	<p>Embedding Team-based Critical Reflection through Peer Learning: Introducing the Social Work Online Team Training (SWOTT) Toolkit</p> <p><i>Dr Michaela Rogers & Dr Claire Cunningham</i></p>	<p>Supporting neurodiversity within social work: A qualitative study investigating social work managers roles*</p> <p><i>Lisa Richey</i></p>	<p>Elevating the Social Worker in Children and Young People's Mental Health Services</p> <p><i>Annabel Smith, Sarah Harris & Del Baxter</i></p>
2.45pm – 3.45pm: Workshops (C)				
<p>Use of self in creating safe spaces</p> <p><i>Patriche Bentick & Pamela Shodeinde</i></p>	<p>Independents Symposium:</p> <p>Independent Social Work and Supervision</p> <p><i>Michele Welch</i></p> <p>and</p> <p>Networking Session</p> <p><i>Please note, this session will run 2:30-4:00pm</i></p>	<p>Tackling Ageism Together</p> <p><i>Graham Price, Sally Nieman, Emma Perry & Gerry Nosowska</i></p>	<p>Coproduction isn't just for Christmas - Collaborative Approaches in Social Work Research</p> <p><i>Katy Cleece & Parisa Quaynor</i></p>	<p>Doing a Masters or Doctorate while still working*</p> <p><i>David Pitcher, Beverley Burke, Sally Nieman & others</i></p> <p>Interpreter Mediation in Social Work: Findings and resources from a research project to enhance practice*</p> <p><i>Sarah Vicary</i></p>

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4.00pm – 5.00pm: Workshops (D)				
Becoming a Social Work Manager: Towards a Smoother Transition <i>Dr Angie Bartoli</i>	Independents Symposium: Introduction to the BASW Independents Toolkit <i>Jo Fox</i>	Developing and Supporting Community Assets <i>Jon Hyslop</i>	Writing about social work research and practice – key lessons from BASW journals <i>Reima Ana Maglajlic, Christian Kerr & Michaela Rogers</i>	The current and future role of social work in mental health services across the UK <i>Robert Lewis, Sarah Vicary, Carolyn Ewart & Ruth Allen</i>

*Sessions marked with an asterisk are 30 minutes only.



For the most up to date news on the programme and more detailed information about each session and speaker, scan the QR code or visit <https://basw.co.uk/about-basw/social-work-conferences-uk/uk-social-work-conference-2025/social-work-conference>

In Depth View – 11th June

Plenary (University Place B)				
9.30am – 11.00am: Plenary				
<p>Welcome BASW Chair Julia Ross and CEO Ruth Allen</p> <p>Award of the British Association of Social Workers Kay McDougall Prize 2025</p> <p>Presentations and discussion:</p> <p><i>What does AI really mean for social work?</i></p> <p>Keynote: Professor Amanda Taylor-Beswick</p> <p><i>Presentation and panel discussion: Prof Taylor Beswick, Professor Brian Littlechild, Rachel Astall, Dr Anastasia Karpunina, Luke Geoghegan & others</i></p>				
Plenary (University Place B)	Room 2 (1.218)	Room 3 (1.219)	Room 4 (2.220)	Room 5 (2.218)
11.30am – 12.30pm: Workshops (E)				
<p>The Role of Social Workers in Disasters*</p> <p><i>Dr Wendy Coxshall, Kayleigh Wharton & Maris Stratulis</i></p> <p>Social Work in War-torn contexts: The relevance of this issue to UK social work education and practice*</p> <p><i>Prof Shulamit Ramon</i></p>	<p>Social Worker Wellbeing: a study evaluating the impact of coaching in the UK</p> <p><i>Jane Shears, Kate Cuthbertson & Catrin Noone</i></p>	<p>Supporting young people through the arts*</p> <p><i>Beth Vecchione, Amelia Channon & Cicero Daniel</i></p> <p>Child safeguarding and Deaf British Sign language (BSL) parents: What next at the crossroads?*</p> <p><i>Rosemary Oram</i></p>	<p>What AI Avatars Can [Not] Do for Social Workers</p> <p><i>Dr Anastasia Karpunina</i></p>	<p>Social Work, Dignity and the learning from the experience of communities in which there are people with Down Syndrome*</p> <p><i>Richard Murphy</i></p> <p>Navigating the future: AI at NICE*</p> <p><i>Jade Stacey & Louise Sims</i></p>

Plenary (University Place B)	Room 2 (1.218)	Room 3 (1.219)	Room 4 (2.220)	Room 5 (2.218)
1.30pm – 2.30pm: Workshops (F)				
<p>Developing a research career in social care: Personal experiences from five national research capacity building partnerships</p> <p><i>Lilly Trapp, Kate Harris, Rachel Murphy, Chris Metcalf, Lisa Richey & Oona Trebell</i></p>	<p>Supporting women in the Criminal Justice System: A social work approach</p> <p><i>Dr Caroline Bald</i></p>	<p>Innovative Approaches to widen access to Social Work Apprenticeships in health based social work</p> <p><i>Lisa Brett, Vida Douglas, Annabel Smith & Chloe Cooper-Brown</i></p>	<p>BJSW Kay McDougall Prize Lecture 2025: 'If we know what works to support parents with learning disabilities, why aren't we doing it?'</p> <p><i>Beth Tarleton, Margaret Spencer, Danielle Turney, Gillian McIntyre & Susan Collings</i></p>	<p>Co-producing social work practice research in Neurodiversity – reflections from Social Care research Ambassadors*</p> <p><i>Dr Lesley Deacon, Chantahl Rodwell & Kate Aspray</i></p>
2.45pm – 3.45pm: Workshops (G)				
<p>Mental Health Social Work Matters: Why social workers are essential for better mental health services</p> <p><i>Jacqueline Bell, Sarah Markham & Lyn Romeo</i></p>	<p>An Introduction to Social Work with Adults who have Huntington's Disease. A Practice Guide</p> <p><i>Lindsey Hughes & Carol Davies</i></p>	<p>Experts from academia and workforce development present and discuss key issues in social work education now</p> <p><i>Sam Baron, Tonimarie Benaton, Rachael Rooke & Camilla Ventre</i></p>	<p>Engage Approach - A Paradigm Shift in Responding to Domestic Abuse*</p> <p><i>Saskia Lightburn-Ritchie</i></p> <p>"It's just the way it is, if you want to be a social worker." Exploring burnout and trauma in the social work profession.*</p> <p><i>Hannah Kingsford</i></p>	<p>From Personal Awareness to Professional Excellence: How to be a SAVI Social Worker</p> <p><i>Nadine Boyne</i></p>

Plenary (University Place B)	Room 1 (1.218)	Room 2 (1.219)	Room 4 (2.220)	Room 5 (2.218)
4.00pm – 4.30pm: Closing Plenary				
<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Plenary</p> <p>“So what now?!” Experts by Experience and practitioners reflect on learning from the conference for better social work and better citizen experience in the future</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel Discussion: <i>Reshma Patel, Sally Parker, Omar Mohamed, Russell Hogarth, Mark Lynes and others</i></p>				

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