COMPASSjobs fair





Shared
Futures in
Social Work

London, 24 November 2025



Event Programme





Media Partner



Social Work Today



Retain this programme as evidence of your CPD



19-23 January 2026

Join us for a week of online webinars designed to support those who work in health, care and social work with their work-life balance. Sessions hosted by employers and sector experts highlight how to prioritise the physical and emotional wellbeing of staff.

Why should you take part?

Protect your wellbeing

Discover practical tools to strengthen your work-life balance and avoid burnout.

Feel supported

Hear from experts who understand the pressures of frontline health, care and social work.

Connect with others

Join a national community of peers who share your challenges and successes.

Improve your practice

Gain proven techniques that make your workload more manageable and sustainable.



How can your organisation get involved?

- Event Sponsorship: show how you are taking an active interest in your employees' wellbeing
- **Host a webinar**: be part of the scheduled conference and be promoted on our daily e-newsletter and social media.
- Premium coverage: your branding included on all promotional materials and social media.
- **Banner**: daily e-newsletter sent out to 22,000 social work professionals every day



Contact us today to find out how you can take part

Email: hello@socialworktoday.co.uk

Phone: 01892 784804



Contents

COMPASS events - publications - training

EVENT DIRECTOR
Kellie Doubtfire

CONTENT EDITOR Rik Clarke

EXHIBITION SALES Ashley Dzumbira

EVENT EXECUTIVE Sophie Marland

EVENT ADMINISTRATOR Emma Barnes

MANAGING DIRECTOR Mark Pearson

COMPASS

The Barn, St James' Square, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6AP T: 01892 784804 www.compassjobsfair.com

Welcome from our CPD Sponsor	4 & 5
Exhibitor information	6 & 7
Timetable	8
Event floor plan	9
Conference programme	10 - 14
Dates for your diary	15

We're here to help

You can find the COMPASS team in The Networking Lounge on the first floor, where we can assist you with any questions relating to this and future events.

Follow us on social media:







Visitor information

Collect your CPD certificate - 4pm

You are invited to join us on the London Borough of Hounslow stand at 4pm to network with fellow visitors and exhibitors, reflect on the day's learning, and collect your CPD certificate.

Food and drink

There is no need to leave the venue for lunch, as a variety of refreshments and food options will be available throughout the day in the Tyburn Market on the ground floor. You are welcome to bring your lunch to The Networking Lounge on the first floor, providing a comfortable space to relax and recharge before continuing with a day of networking and CPD.

Important seminar information

Seats in seminar rooms are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and cannot be booked in advance (except those specified). Once a room reaches capacity, entry will be restricted. Rooms must be vacated between sessions - even if you plan to attend the next one in the same room - to ensure fair allocation of seats and to comply with health and safety requirements. We thank you for your cooperation.

Photographs

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

Would your organisation like to exhibit next year?

To reserve an exhibition stand for next year's event, please speak to one of the team at the COMPASS stand and we will be able to discuss your requirements.

We want to be a place where people work together to transform the lives of children, adults, families, and residents

Be part of our future in Hounslow



Hounslow is a place where people work together to transform the lives of all our communities. We have an excellent career development pathway and are committed to our 'grow your own' policy.

To find out more about Hounslow, career pathways and current opportunities please follow the QR codes.



Opportunities for professionals working with children



Opportunities for professionals working with adults

Visit our stand today



CPD sponsor: London Borough of Hounslow

Proud CPD sponsors of the Shared Futures in Social Work Conference



The London Borough of Hounslow is a vibrant, exciting place to visit, stay and explore, with many hidden gems. Miles of rivers – including the Thames, canals, nature reserves and parks, bustling town centres, and a fantastic leisure offer.

Bordering with Richmond, Ealing, and Heathrow Airport in Hillingdon, the borough boasts some of the most historic and biodiverse open spaces in London and a diverse population that ensures an incredible selection of specialist shops and cuisines from around the world. The borough features modern housing estates, quiet suburbs, green belt villages like Heston and bustling and fashionable cosmopolitan districts such as Chiswick. The borough has excellent transport links: the A4 and M4 run through the borough and the area has 8 London Underground stations and 7 mainline railway stations.

Experience incredible heritage from Highway Men, the Rothschild's first Country House, the Battle of Brentford, and boat building on the Thames; to being the home of Hogarth, Mo Farah, and Freddie Mercury.

We are proud that Hounslow is a real community of communities and one of the most culturally diverse areas in the UK. Over 250,000 people live in the borough. Hounslow was in 2021 recognised & named the best Council in the country for consistently delivering high quality services and making significant improvements to the lives of its residents.

Our workforce is our greatest asset

Social Work in Hounslow is underpinned by a culture of systemic and strengths-based practice with high quality relationships at the heart of what we do.

We have strong links with colleagues in adult services, and other specialist services linked to children with special educational needs and disabilities and a clear focus on developing Early Help services and Family Hubs, furthering our commitment to community based and accessible support. Our workforce is our greatest asset, we are committed to providing high quality training and development to encourage career development and achieve the best outcomes for children and families.

We listen

Children, young people and families are at the heart of all we do here in Hounslow. We listen to what children, young people and families have to say about what we do and how and where we do it because their say matters. Putting children, young people and families first is at the heart of our Family Friendly vision and we are committed to developing and supporting our workforce to deliver excellent services using resilience-based approaches. We want our children, their families, and the communities that they live within to thrive and achieve, and you will be key in helping us achieve that aim.

We have an excellent career development pathway and are committed to our 'grow your own policy' which has resulted in many social workers beginning their carer in Hounslow and becoming managers and entering senior leadership. We are looking for skilled, dynamic and motivated professionals who are aspirational for children and young people with the ability to drive change in the families and professional systems they work within. If you thrive in a child-centred and creative environment – Hounslow could be for you.



Exhibitor information

CPD Sponsor

London Borough of Hounslow



Hounslow recognises that our workforce is our most valuable asset to change the lives of vulnerable children, young people, families, and residents. Our commitment is to develop a stable, highly skilled, and valued workforce that works to consistently high standards and promotes the welfare of our community. We want Hounslow Children & Adult Services to be a place where people want to work together to transform the lives of children, adults, families, and residents.

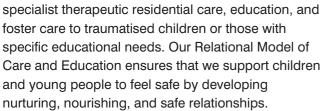


Supporting Local Authorities with High

quality Reviews & Assessments. Ackerman Pierce pride themselves on the ability to source, prepare & maintain their workforce across Local Authorities nationwide, covering all bases, Social Worker through to Interim Level Management.

The Caldecott **Foundation**





Cellmark

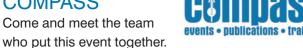


The Caldecott

Cellmark provides courtapproved DNA relationship

testing to members of the public, local authority Children's Services teams, government departments and the legal profession. We will be joined by our new sister company, Lextox, who provide comprehensive drug and alcohol testing for family law.

COMPASS



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.

Forensic Testing Service Ltd



Forensic Testing Service

Ltd (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.

The Mulberry Bush Charity



based charity, and our

mission is to transform the lives of people troubled and traumatised as children. We provide a range of specialist services aimed at breaking the cycle for these children, people, their families, and communities, many of whom have generational patterns of difficulty and trauma.

National Fostering Group



National Fostering Groups story is one of passion, growth and commitment to

making a difference. From the beginning, we've focused on providing the highest quality of foster care across the UK and we're proud to be the largest independent fostering provider in the UK.

ParentAssess



A leading training

provider dedicated to equipping social work professionals with practical skills and essential knowledge. Our specialist parenting assessment model is the most widely recognised framework in the UK. We offer a diverse range of training courses for all professionals working with families in social care.

Portsmouth City Council

Join Portsmouth City Council (Stronger Futures) and discover what makes us #ProudToBePortsmouth in



Meet our family support and safeguarding and fostering team, win a hamper of Portsmouth treats and learn more about our Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) programme.

Social Work Today

children's social care.



Event Media Partner

Social Work Today is a daily e-newletter backed by an online platform, developed to give social work professionals a sector-specific space.

It creates the networks to provide social work information, webinars, jobs and CPD from across the UK and wider global community. Find out more at www.socialworktoday.co.uk

West Sussex County Council

We're committed to putting Children First, creating the right environment and providing the



best learning opportunities so good social work practice can flourish. Visit us on our stand and find out how we use the Family Safeguarding Model, how West Sussex can change your life and how you can change West Sussex.

WillisPalmer

WillisPalmer is a provider



of child protection and social work services. We offer independent social work, psychological, psychiatric and forensic risk assessments, as well as Family Support and Reverse Residential services.

We provide multi-disciplinary, trauma-informed interventions to safeguard children and support families, working with local authorities, courts, and other agencies.





Come and visit us on **Stand 2** and find out more about our pay, benefits and practice model

Social Worker of the Year Awards - Supportive Social Work Employer of the Year 2025 - Silver Award

WS31889 11.2025

6 Compass Jobs Fair London 2025 Compass Jobs Fair, London 2025



Shared Futures in Social Work

London, 24 November

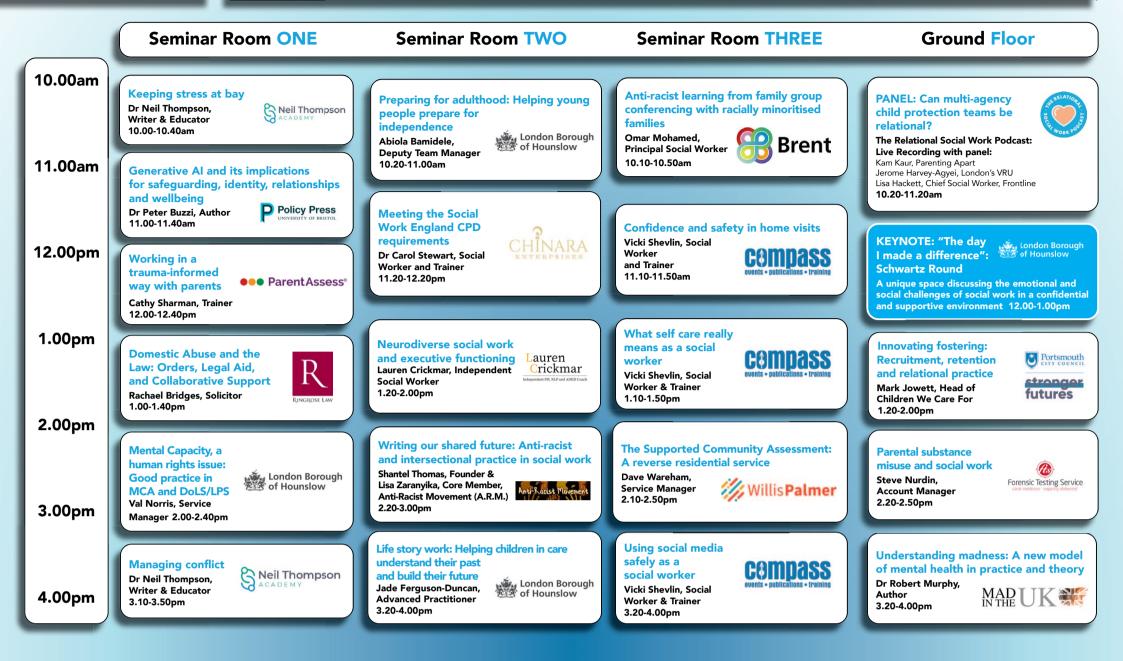
CPD Sponsor

London Borough
of Hounslow





Collect your CPD Certificate from 4pm





Organisations that would like to speak to you in the Exhibition Hall on the First Floor

CPD Sponsor

London Borough of Hounslow

Ackerman Pierce Cellmark COMPASS

The Caldecott Foundation
Forensic Testing Service Ltd
The Mulberry Bush Charity

Media Partner

Social Work Today National Fostering Group

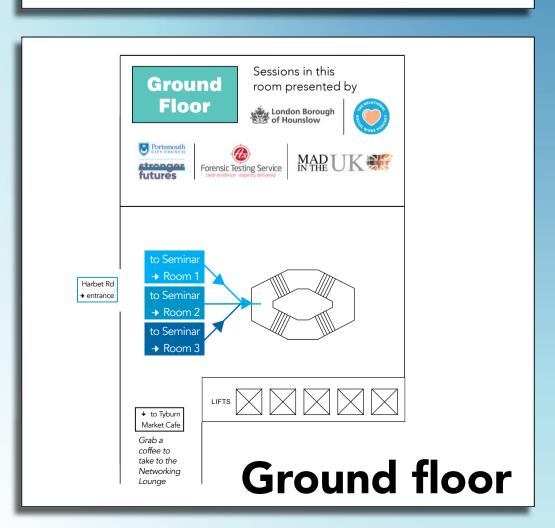
ParentAssess

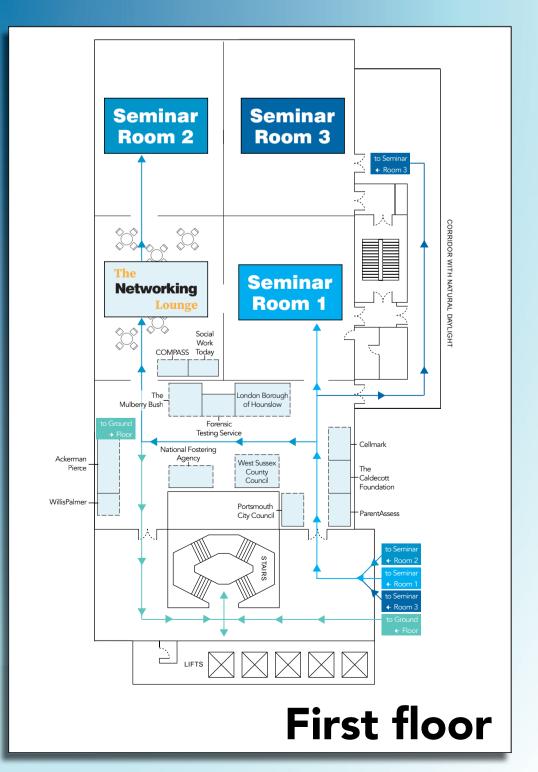
Portsmouth City Council

West Sussex County Council

WillisPalmer

Don't forget to collect your CPD certificate at 4pm





Conference programme

Conference programme

A full conference timeline showcasing the seminars, workshops, and key sessions taking place throughout the day

10.00 - 10.40 eminar Room One

Keeping stress at bay

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



Stress can prove hugely costly in both human and financial terms. Despite this, it has become 'normalised' in many organisations – that is, people have come to expect to have to face unreasonable levels of pressure. This seminar clears up some of the myths and misunderstandings around stress – including the fallacy that it is inevitable. It explores the harm it can do, ways of managing pressures and support with the aftermath of a stress episode.

Dr Neil Thompson has been writing, teaching and training about stress management for many years. He has had many considerable successes in helping individuals, teams and whole organisations to rise to the challenges presented by stress.

10.10 - 10.50 Seminar Room Three

Anti-racist learning from family group conferencing with racially minoritised families



Omar Mohamed, Principal Social Worker, Brent Council

This presentation examines the potential for anti-racism in Family Group Conferencing (FGC) with racially minoritised families and considers what this might mean for social work.

To do this, it draws on the systematic literature review I completed as part of my Bachelors in Social Work dissertation (Mohamed, 2023). The literature suggests racially minoritised families find FGC to be empowering and that at times, it meets their cultural needs, however, we need to be curious about how culturally adaptable FGC is for racially minoritised communities in the United Kingdom.

10.20 - 11.00 minar Room Two

Preparing for adulthood: Helping young people prepare for independence



Abiola Bamidele, Deputy Team Manager, Adults with Learning Disability and Autism Service, London Borough of Hounslow

Practitioners will discuss the work of the Independent Futures Team and how they work collegiately with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Children Services and Commissioning, sharing their Preparing for Adulthood Protocol and good news stories from young people and their families.

10.20 - 11.20 Ground Floor

10

PANEL: Can multi-agency child protection teams be relational?

Matt Clayton and Hannah Bedford, Social Workers, Live recording with panel The Relational Social Work Podcast



Hannah and Matt are recording The Relational Social Work Podcast Live at COMPASS Jobs Fair, London. The podcast focusses on the importance of connection and relationships in social work 'with' children, young people and their families, exploring this through meaningful conversations with inspiring leaders from across the sector.

They and are joined by: Kam Kaur – Senior Social Worker / Consultant at Parenting Apart Programme, Jerome Harvey-Agyei - Youth Participation Lead The Mayor Of London's violence reduction unit, Lisa Hackett – Chief Social Worker at Frontline.

Collect your CPD certificate from the London Borough of Hounslow stand in the Exhibition Hall at 4pm

O minar Room O Dr Pra Al,

Generative AI and its implications for safeguarding, identity, relationships and wellbeing



Dr Peter Buzzi, Director, Centre for Safeguarding and Wellbeing Practice and Research

This is an evidence-informed session that offers an opportunity for reflection on the possibilities and implications of generative Al and its significance for safeguarding. Thinking about the impact of social technologies and generative Al, we'll examine some practice examples and reflect on implications of Al for identity, relationships, and well-being.

11.10 - 11.50 Seminar Room Three

Before you knock: Confidence and safety on home visits

Compass events - nublications - training

Vicki Shevlin, Trainer, COMPASS

Home visits are not simple, especially in safeguarding. Entering someone's home means stepping into their world. It requires sensitivity, self-awareness, and practical preparation. This seminar explores what happens before you knock, focusing on how practitioners can prepare mentally, emotionally and practically for visits that may carry risk, uncertainty or emotional intensity. This session will also equip you with practical tools, reflective strategies and confidence for one of social work's most complex tasks.

1.20 - 12.20 ninar Room Two

Masterclass on meeting the CPD requirements for Social Work England re-registration



Dr Carol Stewart, Social Worker, 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.

The session will also include the opportunity to reflect on a piece of CPD with a peer so that you can complete both parts of the Social Work England registration CPD requirements at the event.

12.00 - 12.40 eminar Room On

Working in a trauma-informed way with parents



Cathy Sharman, Independent Trainer, ParentAssess

Many parents involved with social services have experienced trauma, whether in childhood or adulthood, which can affect how they think, learn, and respond to support. As a result, many traditional strategies for working with parents are ineffective and genuine long-term changes are not achieved. There's a common perception in social work that prioritising parents' needs might compromise child protection. However, in reality, children thrive when their parents are supported to care for them safely.

Join the ParentAssess seminar to explore key insights and practical strategies that help parents make meaningful, lasting changes—ensuring better outcomes for children.

12.00 - 1.00 Ground Floor

Compass Jobs Fair London 2025

KEYNOTE: "The day I made a difference...": Schwartz Round: A space to discuss the emotional and social challenges of social work in a confidential and supportive environment



11

This will be a facilitated session with Hounslow staff sharing a work experience, followed by an open discussion, London Borough of Hounslow

Join this powerful and moving hour-long, reflective forum where staff discuss the emotional and social challenges of their work in a confidential, non-hierarchical space.

This will be a facilitated session, starting with 3-4 staff sharing a relevant work experience, followed by an open discussion to foster connection, support, and understanding among social work colleagues.

Compass Jobs Fair, London 2025

Conference programme

Conference programme

1.00 - 1.40 eminar Room One

Domestic Abuse and the Law: Orders, Legal Aid, and Collaborative Support



Rachael Bridges, Associate Solicitor Children Law and Domestic Abuse, Ringrose Law

Rachael will explain what Injunctions/Orders are available to victims of domestic abuse. She will run through the steps for obtaining a Non-Molestation Order and Occupation Order and explain the use of Undertakings. She will give an overview of the legal aid funding available and the eligibility criteria to qualify for Legal Aid.

Rachael will give a brief overview of how the Courts deal with domestic abuse allegations within children's proceedings and end with exploring how different professionals and agencies can work together to give better support to victims of domestic abuse.

1.10 - 1.50 Seminar Room Three

What self care really means as a social worker

Compass

Vicki Shevlin, Trainer, COMPASS

Self-care is more than bubble baths and quick fixes – it's about building real

boundaries that protect your wellbeing and sustain your practice. In this workshop, you'll gain the tools to recognise the difference between surface-level self-care and strategies that truly support you as a professional and a person. Learn how to create healthier patterns, maintain balance, and prioritise your needs without guilt.

Join Vicki for a reflective and empowering session designed to help you thrive in social work, not just survive.

1.20 - 2.00 minar Room Two

Neurodiversity and social work: Is it procrastination... or executive dysfunction?



Lauren Crickmar, Independent Social Worker

Lauren provides expert court reports for parents with a learning disability or who are neurodivergent (ND), assessing with insight from her lived experience of her own neurodiversity. This workshop examines what neurodivergence is, the challenges, strengths and key issues within society that impact on ND communities, in particular, social care staff and families. Join her to gain an understanding of executive functioning to enable social workers to better understand the neurodiverse families that they work with, instead of labelling them as lazy or unmotivated.

20 - 2.00

Innovating fostering: Recruitment, retention and relational practice



Mark Jowett, Head of Children We Care For, Portsmouth City Council

Explore how Portsmouth City Council is developing approaches to foster carer recruitment and retention through a values-led model that prioritises children's needs and long-term stability. Focusing on keeping children close to their communities, the discussion will outline how the Mockingbird model strengthens support networks, and how an emerging Intensive Fostering model offers tailored, wraparound care for children with complex needs. The session is suitable for practitioners, managers and those interested in innovative approaches to fostering and family-based care.

2.00 - 2.40 eminar Room One

Mental Capacity, a human rights issue – good practice in MCA and DoLS



Val Norris, Service Manager, London Borough of Hounslow

This seminar will look at the power of the Mental Capacity Act to protect the human rights of people with cognitive impairment and best practice in using the legislation. With the transition from Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) to the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) on the horizon, this session will focus on what good practice looks like now and in the future. It will unpack common challenges, from assessing capacity to balancing risk, consent, and best interests, and highlight practical approaches that keep human rights at the centre of decision-making.

Participants will leave with strengthened understanding, practical examples, and reflective tools to promote lawful, compassionate, and person-centred practice in everyday social work.

2.10 - 2.50 iinar Room Three

The Supported Community Assessment: A reverse residential service



Dave Wareham, Service Manager, WillisPalmer

The seminar provides an overview of WillisPalmer's Supported Community Assessment, a child-centered, multidisciplinary approach to supporting and assessing families with complex needs and risks in their own home and community. Delivered by Family Support Workers (FSWs), Independent Social Workers (ISWs) and a psychologist if required, the service offers supervision, safeguarding observation, guidance, and teaching within the family's home.

Designed to inform court and local authorities' decisions, the model keeps the child's safety, needs, and timescales central, ensuring all decisions are underpinned on robust evidence gathered in the family's own environment.

2.20 - 3.00 minar Room Two

Writing Our Shared Future: Anti-racist and intersectional practice in social work



Shantel Thomas, Social Work Leader, Activist, and Founder, and Lisa Zaranyika, Core Member, Anti-Racist Movement (ARM)

Join Shantel and Lisa for "Writing Our Shared Future: anti-racist and intersectional practice in social work" — a reflective interactive space dedicated to honest reflection on how anti-racism and intersectionality can shape the future of the profession.

Through creative exercises and thought-provoking dialogue, core ARM members will explore the lived experiences, challenges, and strengths of social workers from all backgrounds. Together, we will co-create meaningful strategies for more just, inclusive, and sustainable practice — ensuring every voice is heard as we build resilience and collective vision for change.

SOCIAL WORK PORK

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.

Join hosts Matt Clayton and Hannah Bedford in today's LIVE podcast recording with panel guests:

Kam Kaur

Senior Social Worker/Consultant Parenting Apart Jerome Harvey-Agyei

Youth Participation Lead
London's Violence Reduction Unit

10.20-11.20_{am} Ground Floor

Lisa Hackett
Chief Social Worker



Listen to every episode on Social Work Today

12 Compass Jobs Fair, London 2025 Compass Jobs Fair London 2025

Conference programme

.20 - 2.50 round Floor

Parental substance misuse and social work: Using hair strand testing effectively to support your practice



Forensic Testing Service

Steve Nurdin, Senior Account 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. Learn why traditional methods of instructing and reporting evidence from HST can fail to meet High Court requirements and why isolated results may be misleading. Participants will gain insights into the critical questions that ensure HST reports are reliable and aligned with Court standards.

The session will cover factors affecting results, such as natural or dyed hair, and show how best practices can reduce costs in child protection cases. Speakers will also discuss when it is appropriate to test children.

3.10 - 3.50 eminar Room One

Managing conflict in social work

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



Conflict, if not well handled, can do untold damage to working relationships, organisational effectiveness and even to the mental health of the individuals involved. However, there are skills and strategies that can be developed to make sure that no one need fear conflict doing so much harm. In some circumstances, conflict can even have positive results.

This seminar examines how conflicts arise and how they can be prevented or managed effectively. Successful conflict management can not only prevent or address significant problems but also boost confidence and a sense of security. Neil Thompson is a qualified mediator with extensive experience of teaching and training about conflict management.

3.20 - 4.00 Seminar Room Two

Life story work: Helping children in care understand their past and build their future



Jade Ferguson-Duncan, Advanced Practitioner, London Borough of Hounslow

This workshop will explore Hounslow Council's approach to life story work and why it matters. Participants will learn how life story work helps children answer difficult questions about why they are in care, offers a secure anchor to their past, and creates a bridge to their future.

Attendees will consider the role of social workers in facilitating these conversations, and how to handle sensitive or traumatic histories with compassion and care. By the end of the workshop, participants will have practical insights and strategies to embed life story work into practice, ensuring children in care feel a stronger sense of belonging, continuity, and identity.

3.20 - 4.00 Seminar Room Three

Using social media safely as a social worker

Vicki Shevlin, Trainer, COMPASS



Social media is part of everyday life – but how can you use it without putting your registration at risk? This interactive session will help you navigate professional guidelines with confidence, showing you how to share online safely, responsibly and authentically. You'll explore the opportunities social media offers for social workers, while learning practical strategies to avoid common pitfalls.

Join Vicki to discover how to protect yourself, your career and the people you work with, and to understand the growing role of social media in the future of social work.

3.20 - 4.00 Ground Floor

Understanding madness: A new psychosocial model of mental health in practice and theory



Dr Robert Murphy, Mad in the UK

In this session, Dr Murphy invites participants to understand how they might achieve a mind of their own despite the pitfalls they encounter on their journey through life. He sets aside psychiatric diagnoses and psychological conditions which medicalise and pathologise our feelings, thoughts, and actions. Instead, he focuses on madness as a state of mind we can all experience if distressing and disturbing circumstances conspire to overwhelm us and 'drive us crazy'. He emphasises that madness is a temporary and not a permanent state of mind, providing we can understand the source of our overwhelming feelings and thoughts, and the reasons for our actions. Becoming conscious of the source of each feeling can then signpost a way through our madness.

Dates for your Diary



Reflect, Learn, Thrive: Monthly pathways to professional excellence Get the free link on Social Work Today Online Events





Social Work Wellbeing Week: An online conference





National NQSW Conference: Launch Your Social Work Career





The Social Work Show, Birmingham





Next Steps into Social Work: An online conference





The Social Work Show





COMPASS Jobs Fair, London





Recruitment support



Throughout the year, Social Work Today supports

many of our clients with strategic recruitment planning for jobs, webinars and online event campaigns. If you would like to boost your advertisement campaigns, why not get in touch at hello@socialworktoday.co.uk?

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



Transforming troubled lives together







The Mulberry Bush Organisation – working to transform the lives of all those affected by childhood trauma



Showing the way in teaching, practice & research





Showing the way with insight



For more information please visit our website below or call 01865 594700

f O in

mulberrybush.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 309565