

Institute of Public Care Speakers

Fiona Richardson – Conference Host & Director of IPC



Fiona is a very experienced consultant who leads [applied research and evaluations](#), service improvement projects and [training and development](#) programmes for national and local government, health organisations, care providers and the voluntary and community sector for IPC. Fiona also holds overall responsibility for the delivery of the commissioning course.

Amy Harmsworth – IPC Consultant & Commissioning Alumni Network co-ordinator



Amy has significant operational and strategic commissioning experience working with public and third sector organisations, support public health functions, housing support and adult and children's social services. Amy is a course tutor on the IPC Commissioning Course and manages the associated Alumni Network.

Philip Provenzano – Assistant Director of IPC



Philip is part of the IPC management team and leads on consultancy projects for the Institute. He is an experienced manager of complex change programmes and has led a wide range of service re-design projects, often requiring some integration with other organisations. He provides expert, longer-term support relating to health and social care to members of our [Academic Partnership programme](#).

Graeme McLaren – IPC Principal Consultant



Graeme brings over 20 years' experience in local and regional government, and in the voluntary and community sectors, to his role at the Institute of Public Care. Graeme leads and delivers a range of organisational change and development programmes, with a particular focus on [commissioning and market shaping](#). As a skilled and qualified facilitator, Graeme is also a tutor on the IPC Commissioning Course.

Q&A Panel Members – Chaired by Fiona Richardson

Brian Grady – Interim Executive Director of Children’s Services and Director of Education – Brighter Futures for Children



Brian has held children’s services leadership roles with responsibility for improving outcomes across early help, education and social care in County, Unitary and London Borough settings. Always informed by his learning with IPC, personal highlights have included helping secure improved readiness for school through delivering children’s centres, improving placement choice and supporting improved outcomes for children

looked after and care leavers through sub regional commissioning, establishing new primary and secondary school provision rated ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted and overseeing programmes to improve attainment for disadvantaged groups of pupils.

Charlotte Parkes – Senior Public Health Manager & IPC Commissioning Alumni Network Member



Charlotte is an experienced Health Improvement Specialist working for over 15 years within both the NHS and Local Authority. She currently maintains responsibility for key operational and strategic Public Health workstreams including sexual health commissioning. Charlotte is passionate and committed to reducing inequalities and improving the health and wellbeing of the local population.

Helen Price – Director of Strategy, Commissioning and Transformation for Children’s and Families – Birmingham City



Helen is an experienced commissioner who has worked in a range of contexts most recently as Assistant Director of commissioning in Somerset and now Director of commissioning in Birmingham City. Initially as a social worker and now as a commissioner, relationship based approaches are fundamental to the way Helen works.

Helen is passionate about getting it right for the most vulnerable, enabling those with lived experience to shape and be fully involved in commissioning their services has been crucial.

Laura Gaudion – Director and Adult Social Care and Housing Needs – Isle of Wight



With have 20+ years in experience working in local government Laura’s time (and roles) have been varied, challenging and hugely rewarding. Laura’s roles within adult social care have provided her with an opportunity to look at things a little less traditionally – focussing on what really matters, constrictively challenging ‘the way things are done’, as required. Laura’s key belief is that ‘best practice’ is there as a guide and it is only ‘best practice’ because the better way of doing it

is yet to be discovered. And as leaders we are all responsible for creating an environment where our teams feel engaged, empowered and equipped to look for that ‘better way’.

Oliver Spence – Business Development Lead – First City Care Group & IPC Commissioning Alumni Network Member



Offering a Care Provider perspective to the panel, Oliver represents a lead provider organisation that aims to deliver a new model of community care which enables people to live independently and can react to the needs of a local population.

Show and Tell Speakers

Please note, Fiona Richardson, Laura Gaudion, Helen Price and Oliver Spence are also presenting in the show and tell sessions.

Ayesha McKechnie – Business Change and Commissioning Manager at Leicester City Council



Ayesha is a project manager and commissioner covering social care and education. Ayesha also holds an IPC PGC in Commissioning and Purchasing for Public Care.

Clare Foster – Integrated Commissioning Manager Gloucestershire Integrated Commissioning Team & IPC Commissioning Alumni Member



Clare's career began in 2004 when she worked at a small NHS provider in North Somerset as a member of the Quality team responsible for the management of complaints, incident investigations and risk management she held that role for 14 years. Clare has worked in Integrated Commissioning for the past 4 years. She completed the IPC Commissioning and Purchasing Course in January 2019 is now responsible for arranging these courses and supporting colleagues across the NHS and local authority to complete it.

Holly Beaman – Head of Integrated Commissioning (Learning Disabilities and Physical Disabilities) Gloucestershire Integrated Commissioning Team



Holly is an experienced commissioning, working in various roles across health and social care for the last 20 years in Kent County Council, Surrey County Council and Gloucestershire County Council / CCG, with disabilities being a continued theme. Holly is passionate about co-production and involvement people with disabilities and their carers in all aspects of commissioning.

Jenny Cooper – Head of Integrated Commissioning - Gloucestershire Integrated Commissioning Team



Jenny started her career as a social worker but now has over 20 years commissioning experience in three local authority settings. She enjoys working as part of an integrated system because the opportunities to enhance the customer journey are greatly increased by the close working of all parts of the system. She embraces partnership working both with providers of services and the people using them. Jenny feels that the customer voice is essential in ensuring that health and care services are relevant, timely and of good quality. She believes that co-production is the best method of facilitating this.

Liz Perfect – Head of Strategic Partnership in Barnardo’s

Liz provides thought leadership to reflect Barnardo’s growing influence and engagement with strategic partnerships to influence and improve the system surrounding vulnerable children and young people. Prior to this role, Liz was the Head of Commissioning and Planning in Leicestershire County Council’s Children and Family Services, where she has developed and managed a centralised commissioning and contract management team and led the procurement of a Children’s Innovation Partnership in 2018.

Michelle Larke – Lead Commissioner at Leicester City Council & IPC Commissioning Alumni Member

Michelle is an experienced project manager and commissioner, covering education, housing and social care. Michelle also holds a PGCE in post-compulsory education and training.

Saber Ghafoor – Community Micro-enterprise Catalyst (Birmingham)

Saber has worked hard over the last twenty years in various roles within a wide range of different communities, in particular working within deprived and disadvantaged communities, supporting them with overcoming social and economic barriers. He has not only contributed to helping people in the local community through his work but has also got involved with the local communities on a voluntary basis using his knowledge and expertise in fitness. Saber strongly believes in improving people’s wellbeing through participation.

Sarah Douglas – Commissioning Development Manager for Durham County Council

Sarah has 18+ years social care and health commissioning experience. She currently leads the innovative ‘Supporting the Provider Market’ (STPM) programme of work, which includes helping providers with recruitment, retention and training through the County Durham Care Academy and also supporting providers with digital developments and service improvement. The STPM work aims to improve the quality of local services but also support market stability and sustainability.

Simon Riggs – Business Change Manager for the Commissioning Alliance



The Commissioning Alliance exists to support local authorities, for the benefit of the most vulnerable in society. They provide services in social care, education and housing. Simon, alongside IPC, has designed and delivered the [Care Purchasing and Brokerage course](#) which aims to develop participant's knowledge and skills in care placement, brokerage and purchasing roles.

Zoe Miller – National Project Support Officer – Community Catalysts CIC



Zoe supports projects across England and Wales. She works with Council's adult social care commissioners and key stakeholders to understand local areas before projects begin and helps to on-board new staff. It's great to be part of work that offers a positive, innovative response to challenges in social care at this time and to see new community micro-enterprises emerge and thrive in local areas.

Wendy Williams – Assistant Director, Children and Families Commissioning Hub – Gloucestershire Integrated Commissioning Team



Wendy has extensive experience in senior leadership roles, in both Children and Adult Services, as the head of joint commissioning for two London Authorities, and she has also been the Head of Early Intervention and Troubled Families service. More recently Wendy has held a number of consultancy roles in senior leadership teams, both in London authorities and County Councils, this work brought her to

Gloucestershire in 2017, and from this she was successfully appointed as the Assistant Director for integrated Children and Families Commissioning in the summer of 2018.

Show and Tell Talks:

[Alternatives to traditional forms of care – outcome and asset based \(Zoe Miller and Saber Ghafoor\)](#)

Come along to hear about the work of Community Catalysts CIC to support the development of community micro-enterprises. Hear how enterprise leaders are offering a fresh alternative to traditional forms of care and support, both in people's homes and in community spaces and the difference they are making to people's lives. We will make the case for local, community based care and support that unlocks the potential in areas and helps to create meaningful, sustainable job opportunities for people with the right skills and values.

[Co-Production in Adult Social Care \(Laura Gaudion\)](#)

The session focuses on the coproduction, the benefits (for everyone!) and the way in which proper and meaningful coproduction can deliver great outcomes. The session will introduce the work recently undertaken in the South East ADASS Region, in partnership with IPC, to provide a new coproduction toolkit for local authorities as well as share a practical example of coproduction around dementia and the Isle of Wights new dementia strategy.

[Collaborative and Integrated Commissioning for health and social care \(Clare Foster, Jenny Cooper & Holly Beaman\)](#)

Information about this Show and Tell talk will follow.

[Data Security \(Sarah Douglas and Fiona Richardson\)](#)

Information about this Show and Tell talk will follow.

[How can brokers affect the children's placement market \(Simon Riggs\)](#)

Information about this Show and Tell talk will follow.

[Procurement with Negotiation – homes for children with children \(Helen Price\)](#)

Applying a dialogue process to work with children and young people, front line staff and providers to deliver a strategic partnership to deliver exceptional homes and therapeutic education for children and young people in Somerset.

Young people were actively involved, leading a dialogue group and visiting providers which formed 12% of the overall evaluation
Developed in partnership with the NHS, with joint investment and aspirations to do things differently.

Relational and Collaborative Commissioning and Procurement – Procurement as Strategic Partners (Liz Perfect)

This session will focus on how to shift more traditionally commissioning and procurement approaches to partnership and collaboration. Changing the way we work through relational commissioning and co-design can improve outcomes for the people we are here to support. This talk will consider the Leicestershire whole system approach to reimagining residential care for looked after children and Barnardo's current evidence and learning in the development of Strategic Partnerships.

Supporting people home from hospital effectively – Discharge to Assess (Michelle Larke & Ayesha McKechnie)

Michelle and Ayesha McKechnie will share the highs and lows of leading the commissioning of discharge to assess services on behalf of system partners in their area. The show and tell session will share models they currently commissioning for people requiring a pathway from hospital to bedded settings and how this has led to some additional piloting of D2A services that incorporate the principles of rehab, reablement and recovery for those with more specialist needs. Recognising the complexity of discharge processes and implementing new ways of working to get better outcomes, this show and tell provides an opportunity to share experiences around models that work, the trickiness of agreeing funding methodologies, and the importance of a coherent pathway approach that enables a shared ownership between health and social care which supports home first principles.

Working in Partnership with and for Young People (Wendy Williams)

Information about this Show and Tell talk will follow.

Working to improve the recruitment and retention of care workers (Oliver Spence)

Icare Careers is a recruitment initiative based in Swindon funded via workforce development Grant funding. The program provides a resource for providers working across the system and is intended to reduce recruitment costs while improving the care brand locally. The website has been supplemented by targeted branding and promotion across the town and through engaging with local people, education providers and care partners.

This session will introduce you to the thinking behind the initiatives, its impact to date and opportunities for growth.