

## Show and Tell Presenters

### **Meilys Heulfryn Smith – Supporting Health and Wellbeing Manager - Cyngor Gwynedd**

Meilys has worked as a Senior Manager in Adults and Children Social Care for the past 15 years, and is currently leading the 'Supporting Health and Wellbeing Service' at Cyngor Gwynedd. In this role, she is responsible for collaborating with varied partners to innovate, implement new ideas and transform existing services for the benefit of people whether or not they need formal care and support.



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

With over 20 years' experience in 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, constructively 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'.

### **Rachel Mason – Expert by experience / SDS commissioning consultant**

Rachel is the mother of 2 adult sons with Autism and learning disabilities in their 30s, living a really good life in their community. She achieved this by changing the conversation with her local authority. Moving away from being a passive recipient of traditionally commissioned services that met her sons' needs, to a co-productive and self-directed approach through micro commissioning with a direct payment. With the creative use of digital technology, harnessing community assets and the local knowledge and flexibility offered by local microproviders, her sons have reduced their reliance on funded services over the last 12 years by 90%.

A consultant for 17 years, she shares her insight and vision of how micro commissioning in and with communities can take social care back to where it belongs.

### **Andrew Jarrett – Director of Children’s Services - Neath Port Talbot**

Andrew Jarrett was appointed as Neath Port Talbot Council’s Director of Social Services, Health and Housing in December 2017. He took up the role as Director after spending five years with the Council, first as Head of Children and Family Services, and more recently as Head of Social Services. A qualified social worker, Andrew has more than 25 years of experience in both strategic and operational management within the social services field. He played a pivotal role in improving Children and Young People Services in Neath Port Talbot by putting in place a strong workforce, manageable caseloads and a model of social work that focussed on outcomes.

In the role of Director, Andrew has focused on Neath Port Talbot Council’s commitment to prioritising the safeguarding of children and adults, offering more personalised care, finding ways of providing early support to people in need, and utilising community resources to complement or avoid the need for traditional centralised care services.



### **Amy Harmsworth – IPC Consultant & Lead Tutor on the Commissioning Course**

Amy has significant operational and strategic commissioning experience working with public and third sector organisations, working within public health functions, housing support and adult and children’s social services. Prior to joining IPC in 2022, Amy was the Operational Manager for Commissioning in Adult Services at Cardiff Council.

Amy has a key belief that people with lived experiences are best placed to design and collaboratively contribute to decisions regarding public services, and has led on a number of projects with IPC focussing on co-production, particularly for adult social care. This includes the Directors for Adult Social Services (South East of England region) [Co-production Guide](#), and more recently a Working Together Plan with an English local authority – a document where the vision, values and principles were co-design by local experts by experience.

Amy is also the lead course tutor on the IPC Commissioning Course and manages the associated Alumni Network.

## Show and Tell Workshops:

### **The path to leadership – the challenge of transformation (Meilys Heulfryn Smith)**

Come along to hear a story of the path to senior leadership in Wales from the perspective of leading transformational change. We will consider the approaches that can be employed by leaders to secure buy-in for change with Meilys. How can leaders inspire and motivate followers to achieve their full potential and exceed their own expectations?

### **Transformation in adult social care (Laura Gaudion)**

Laura's session will describe how the Isle of Wight transformed its approach to supporting leaders and the outcomes achieved. What are the benefits of true collaborative leadership, and how can leaders at all levels be empowered to be brave in their leadership?

### **Micro-commissioning in and with communities - An end user's perspective (Rachel Mason)**

We will hear from Rachel as a parent/carer her perspective on how true co-production with communities and the assets within them can change the future of commissioning. With the creative use of digital technology, harnessing community assets and the local knowledge and flexibility offered by local micro-providers, her sons have reduced their reliance on funded services over the last 12 years by 90%.

### **Compassionate leadership in practice (Andrew Jarrett)**

Andrew will give his perspective on why compassionate leadership is important, both in times of change and adversity but also when there is stability. He believes in the importance of fostering leaders at all levels, and leading with authenticity and self-effacement. Andrew's session will reflect on his career to date, and why setting direction as a leader is critical to an organisation's culture and distinguishes one local authority from another.

### **Co-production in social care (Amy Harmsworth)**

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 consider what people with lived experience of services are telling us and explore their top tips for co-production. There will also be time to consider enablers and barriers to true co-production.