

Managing Acceptable Risk in Children's Social Care Decisions

Monday 31st October 2016

13:30	Welcome refreshments and opportunity to visit museum
14:00	Seating, welcome and introductions Renuka Jeyarajah-Dent (Chair). Director of Operations and Deputy CEO, Coram
14:25	Judicial decisions in care proceedings: law, prediction and choice Professor Judith Masson. Professor of Socio-legal Studies, University of Bristol
14:40	Right or wrong decisions – how do we spot the difference and act on that knowledge to increase the number of right decisions Dave Hill. President, Association of Directors of Children's Services
15:05	Directors of Social Care Panel
15:35	Break
15:45	How do others deal with the idea of an acceptable risk? Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter. Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk, University of Cambridge
16:15	Information analysis and risk Professor Anthony Finkelstein CBE. Professor of Software Systems Engineering, The Alan Turing Institute
16:30	Current preoccupations for the court The Rt. Hon. Sir James Munby. President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales and Head of Family Justice
16.45	Directors of Social Care Panel
17:10	Summary and closing comments Professor Sir Michael Rutter CBE. Professor of Development Psychopathology, King's College London, and Renuka Jeyarajah-Dent (Chair). Director of Operations and Deputy CEO, Coram
17:30	Drinks reception and canapés
18:30	Finish

Speaker profiles



Professor Judith Masson
Professor of Socio-legal Studies, Bristol University

Judith Masson M.A., PhD, FacSS is Professor of Socio-legal Studies at Bristol University where she teaches child and family law. Her research uses a mixed methods approach to apply socio-legal perspectives to child care and child protection, and has included studies of police protection, care proceedings and legal representation.

Between 2004 and 2011 Judith was the academic member of the Family Justice Council.



Dave Hill
President, Association of Directors of Children's Services

Dave Hill joined Essex County Council in November 2010 as Executive Director for Schools, Children and Families having worked in the same role in Merton and Croydon. In 2013 he took on the new role of Executive Director for People Commissioning, including holding the statutory roles of Director of Children's Services (DCS) and Director of Adult Social Services (DASS). During Dave's year as ADCS President he will hold the statutory DCS role only.

Dave has worked in local authorities since 1977, having originally trained as a social worker; later he undertook a Masters Degree in Public Service Management and trained to advanced level as a consultant to individuals, organisations and institutions at the Tavistock Institute.

Dave was a longstanding member of the Social Work Reform Board and is a board member of the National College for Social Work, as well as being a Trustee for the Who Cares Trust. Prior to becoming Vice President of ADCS in April 2015, Dave chaired the ADCS Workforce Development Policy Committee. Dave became ADCS President in April 2016.



Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter
Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk,
University of Cambridge

David Spiegelhalter is Winton Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk and Fellow of Churchill College at Cambridge University, and works to improve the way in which risk and statistical evidence are taught and discussed in society. He gives many presentations to schools and others, advises organisations on risk communication, and is a regular commentator on risk issues.

He presented the BBC4 documentaries 'Tails you Win: the Science of Chance' and the award-winning 'Climate Change by Numbers'. He was elected FRS in 2005, awarded an OBE in 2006, and was knighted in 2014 for services to medical statistics. In 2011 he came 7th in an episode of Winter Wipeout.



Professor Anthony Finkelstein CBE
Professor of Software Systems Engineering, The Alan Turing
Institute

Anthony was educated at University College School, the University of Bradford, the London School of Economics and the Royal College of Art. Finkelstein was, prior to assuming his current role, Dean of the UCL Faculty of Engineering Sciences and prior to that Head of UCL Computer Science.

His scientific work is in the broad area of software development tools and processes. He has also worked on applications of systems modelling in the life sciences. He has served on the editorial boards of ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology and IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, and was founder editor of Automated Software Engineering.

He was appointed in 2013 as a Member of Council of the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council by the Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts, MP. He is a member of the Board of the NHS Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH) and of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Singapore National Research Foundation. He is a Visiting Professor at Imperial College London and at the National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo, Japan.



The Rt. Hon. Sir James Munby
President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales and Head of Family Justice

Sir James Munby has been the President of The Family Division since Jan 2013. He was called to the Bar, (Middle Temple) in 1971 and was made a Bencher in 2000. He was appointed as a QC in 1988; a Judge of the High Court of Justice, Family Division from 2000–09, Chairman, Law Commission, 2009–2012 (on secondment). He was appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal in 2009.



Professor Sir Michael Rutter
Professor of Developmental Psychopathology, King's College London

Michael Rutter is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the MRC Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London. He has a particular interest in methodological issues and has chaired two Academy of Medical Sciences Working Parties on such issues. He has undertaken much research into gene-environment interplay and into normal and abnormal lifespan development, with a focus on risk experiences and on resilience.



Renuka Jeyarajah-Dent
Director of Operations & Deputy CEO
Coram

Renuka is an educational psychologist by profession and was Executive Director of NCH - The Bridge (now part of Action for Children) before joining Coram. Renuka has worked with the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering as their first Black Issues Consultant and has served on the trustee boards of Fostering Network, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) and Shaftesbury Young People.

She has written several Serious Case Reviews, which study inter-agency work in relation to safeguarding. She has provided consultancy to children's services both in the United Kingdom and abroad and her current portfolio includes working with Coram-i, Coram's consultancy service. This service leads on regionalisation of adoption in the central east region.

Panel members



Anne Turner
Director of Children's Safeguarding & Social Work
Camden Council

Anne Turner is a Director of Children's Safeguarding and Social Work in the London Borough of Camden. She has led the development of multidisciplinary services and has developed the MASH and Early Help services in Camden. Anne has worked in all areas of children's social care specialising in services for Looked After Children and Care Planning for those requiring alternative families while developing effective Early Help services to ensure most children can remain within their own families.



David Johnston
Managing Director Children's Social Care and Learning
Buckinghamshire County Council

David Johnston qualified as a social worker 35 years ago and worked in children's service as practitioner and manager for all of this period apart from a 5 year period where he led on Child Protection for SSIW. He has been involved in several improvement journeys, the most recent in Buckinghamshire as DCS, supporting improvements for children through developing staff, developing early help services and creating permanence for children.



Dawn Warwick
Director of Children's Services
Wandsworth Council

Dawn Warwick took up the post of Director of Adult Social Services in Wandsworth in 2007. She has held a number of senior management roles spanning children's and adult social care. Prior to joining Wandsworth she was the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Community and Cultural Services in Slough, where she was previously the Director of Social Services from 2001.

Dawn has worked in social care for thirty years. On completion of her Masters Degree in Social Work at Nottingham University

she joined Leicestershire County Council, initially as a social worker and then as a team manager. She later moved south to take the lead role in mental health services in Hounslow. An honorary fellow of Kingston University, Dawn takes a keen interest in social work education. She is also the joint co-chair of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Older People's committee. From April 2014 Dawn took on the management of a new Education and Social Services Department in Wandsworth following the retirement of the Children's Services Director.



Gail Tolley
Strategic Director of Children and Young People
Brent Council

Gail Tolley is the Strategic Director, Children and Families. She is also the statutory director for Children's Services in Brent.

Gail is also responsible for ensuring that all council services (including housing, environmental, cultural, sports and leisure) and all other public services in Brent, such as health and the police, work together to improve the lives of children. She leads the work of Brent Children's Partnership which comprises the leaders of services for children across Brent. The partnership produces an annual plan which identifies how services will work together and sets improvement targets to enable children to achieve their best and to be healthier and safer. The partnership includes schools, the College of North West London, children and family centers, housing, libraries, sport and leisure, police, health services, probation services, employment services and voluntary sector services.



Michael Rosen
Executive Director of Children's Services
Norfolk County Council

Michael was appointed as Executive Director of Children's Services, Norfolk County Council in September, 2015. He joined Norfolk County Council in October 2013, as Interim Assistant Director for Early Help.

Previously he worked at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, as Interim Head of Education and Childcare. Michael has significant experience in both social care and education – having worked to support school improvement and develop early intervention services for Southwark Council. Michael's role is a key statutory one, leading a

department which combines children's social care with support to deliver excellence in education countywide.

His local government experience also includes a stint as Head of Children's Centres, Extended Services and Play for Hounslow Council and he was part of the team overseeing the transfer of local authority powers to schools for Hackney. He has also worked for voluntary sector organisation Hackney Job Share, promoting flexible working.



Sarah Hammond
Assistant Director for West Kent
Kent County Council

Sarah Hammond is the Assistant Director for Specialist Children's in Kent. She qualified as a Social Worker in 2000, having had previous careers in Speech and Language Therapy and Early Years teaching. Sarah also has experience of working in the voluntary sector when she spent six years with the Council for Voluntary Services in the 1990's where she actively involved in the pre-cursors to the Sure Start programme in Kent. Sarah is currently a member of the Council's Senior Management Team who have delivered Phase 1 of the transformation of Children's Services in Kent.

She has worked closely with Kent's transformation partners Newton Europe in developing diagnostic tools and solutions to meet the ever changing environment of the delivery of Children's Services. Since 2013, Sarah has also had lead responsibility for the service for unaccompanied children in Kent and has been actively involved in helping to shape the Government's response to caring for this group of children and young people as a result of the European migration crisis of 2015. She is a member of the ADCS Asylum Task Force, and is currently seconded to the Home Office on a part time basis to deliver the integration of the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in England.