

ExChange Conference: October 2016

Speaker Biographies

Jen Lyttleton-Smith, Research Associate, CASCADE

Jen is a research associate within CASCADE and project manager for ExChange. She has a PhD in the sociology of childhood and gender from Cardiff University, and has worked in various roles at the university since 2011. Her research interests include participatory and creative methods, looked-after children and young people, and theories of gender, sexuality, and subjectivity. Jen has previously worked on a large European Research Council project comparing understandings of social identity across Europe, specialising in local knowledges of sexuality. Since joining CASCADE she has worked on a number of projects including: the experiences of young carers in education and health; an evaluation of well-being skills groups for looked-after children; and an evaluation of 'family day' visits for children whose mothers are imprisoned. She regularly acts as a guest lecturer and seminar tutor on the sociology undergraduate degree, teaching on education, childhood, gender, and social theory modules. Alongside Dr Louise Roberts she works with the charity 'Voices from Care' to facilitate 'CASCADE Voices', a group of care-experienced young people trained in social research methods who advise researchers and policy makers. Alongside ExChange, she currently works on the 'Gwella' project, concerning interventions with young people at risk of child sexual exploitation, and has a developing interest in exploring the co-production of well-being outcomes for children and young people receiving social care.

Donald Forrester, Professor of Child & Family Social Work, Director of CASCADE, Cardiff University

Donald Forrester is Professor of Child and Family Social Work at the University of Cardiff, where he is Director of the CASCADE Centre for Children's Social Care. Professor Forrester has researched extensively on the links between practice skills, outcomes for children and families and the organizational factors that influence practice quality. He has led 30 studies, with a total worth of over £6 million. Studies of Motivational Interviewing (MI) have been a key part of this programme of work, with Professor Forrester carrying out large-scale studies exploring the impact of MI on families and the challenges involved in changing social worker practice. More recently he has been evaluating projects within the Department for Education's Innovation Programme which have aimed at whole system change. Professor Forrester also led the Frontline programme which provided a practice-based approach to social work education.

Fiona Verity, Professor of Social Work and Social Care, Swansea University

Fiona is Professor of Social Work and Social Care Swansea University, and Director of the Wales School for Social Care Research. She is a sociologist and a social worker with expertise in community development, social policy and practitioner research. Fiona began her career in Australia, in the early 1980s, as a community development worker in local government. She subsequently worked in community development in the community health sector and held policy positions in NGOs. As an academic, she has taught and researched in areas of social policy, community development and social planning. She held the position of Dean, School of Social and Policy Studies at Flinders University, South Australia over the period 2011-2013. Fiona has been active in community work in the voluntary sector and most recently was the Chair of Multi-Cultural Youth SA.



ExChange

Building Better Social Care
in Wales

Adeiladu Gofal Cymdeithasol
Gwell yng Nghymru

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Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults, Department of Health

Lyn Romeo took up her post as Chief Social Worker for Adults in September 2013. Previously, Lyn worked as the Assistant Director for Adult Social Care in the London Borough of Camden. She has also worked as an inspector with the Social Services Inspectorate, as well as working in Yorkshire for over 20 years as both a field social worker and in a variety of management roles across children and adults.

The Chief Social Worker for Adults works collaboratively with the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families. Together they work from the Office of the Chief Social Worker to:

- support and challenge the profession to ensure that children and adults get the best possible help from social workers
- provide independent expert advice to ministers on social work reform, and the contribution of social work and social workers to policy implementation more generally
- provide leadership and work with key leaders in the profession and wider sector to drive forward the improvement and reform programme for social work
- challenge weak practice to achieve decisive improvements in the quality of social work
- provide leadership to the network of principal social workers

Gerry Evans, Director of Regulation & Professional Standards, Care Council for Wales

Gerry Evans, Director of Regulation and Professional Standards and Deputy Chief Executive of the Care Council for Wales since 2002, has over 20 years of experience in research and development projects focusing on work with older people, people with learning disabilities and wider social care and health service delivery. Gerry has published extensively on matters relating to social care and health and undertaken projects in the UK and Europe.

In his current role, Gerry has responsibility for regulation of the social care workforce in Wales and regulation of social work training. He also heads up programme boards on workforce regulation, social care development and social care manager development. Gerry represents the Care Council on various all Wales projects and liaises with other UK and Welsh bodies regarding policy development.

Albert Heaney, Director of Social Services and Integration, Welsh Government

Albert Heaney is the Director of Social Services and Integration in Wales for the Welsh Government. Currently, Albert is a member of the Family Justice Board and Chair of the Family Justice Network Wales. Prior to this post, Albert was the Corporate Director Social Services for Caerphilly County Borough Council leading on Children's and Adults Services with over 25 years' experience in Social Care; having held roles in Social Services, Health and the Voluntary Sector. He previously worked for the NSPCC covering South and West Wales. He also has a background working in CAMHS. Albert is a former President of the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru (ADSS Cymru). He has represented ADSS Cymru in a number of roles including being a Lead Director for Children and a Lead Director for Safeguarding and Prevention. He is a former chair of a Children's Safeguarding Board and an Area Adult Protection Committee. Albert is committed to promoting and ensuring citizen rights and inclusive practice. He brings a commitment to working in partnership and has been actively involved in a range of collaboration and integration initiatives.