

Speaker Biographies

Breakout sessions



Session 1: Mental health and behaviours that challenge



Professor Mike Kerr

Professor Kerr is Clinical Professor Emeritus at Cardiff University's department of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences. His clinical practice is in the epilepsies associated with intellectual disability and in the assessment and treatment of epilepsy and psychiatric disorder.

He was closely associated with initiatives in improving the public health of people with an intellectual disability including developing the Cardiff/Welsh Health Check, which is used across England and Wales as an annual review of health by general practitioners. He is a member of DSUK's Medical Advisory Board.

Session 2: Sleep problems

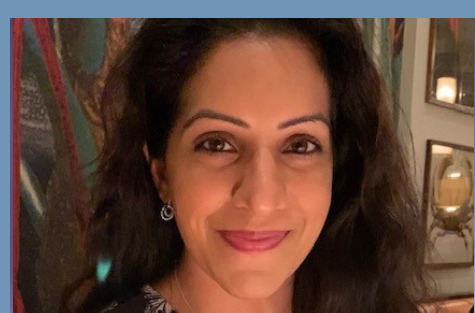


Professor Paul Gringras

Professor Paul Gringras has worked in the field of Children's Neurodisability and Sleep Medicine for more than 15 years. His sleep medicine experience and training was gained in both the UK and Chicago, USA. Paul founded and runs the Department of Children's Sleep Medicine at Evelina, London.

This department integrates fully with the Adult Sleep Disorders centre at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, both of which sit within the Lifespan Sleep Medicine Group. This is one of the only groups of sleep professionals in the UK who are able to offer a true lifespan service within one hospital. His academic position is with King's College London, where he has been Chair of Sleep Medicine since 2010.

Session 3: Statutory rights to access services (children session)



Priya Bahri

Priya is a Solicitor at Disability Law Service. She works on community care and housing cases representing adults and children with impairments and also represents carers.

Priya also works on the social media platforms for DLS where she creates posts daily for people, providing content that would help people self-advocate and to keep them updated with the law, guidance and news. Priya also gets involved with policy work where she can and was involved in the current campaign – Equal Care Rights for Autistic Children.



Session 4: Statutory rights to access services (adult session)



Asma Bennani
LLB (Hons) LPC

Asma is the Senior Community Care Solicitor and Head of Legal Aid Services at Disability Law Service.

Asma has worked as a Social Welfare lawyer for over 15 years. She has a specialised legal knowledge and practice in Welfare Benefits, Housing and Community Care law.

She has successfully represented clients in benefit appeals tribunals, county court possession claims and community care Judicial Review applications. Asma currently manages DLS's Legal Aid contract and is a member of the management team.

Session 5: Transition post-education for adults



Anna Selby-Wells

Anna Selby-Wells is the Marketing Manager at Home From Home Care – a specialist residential care provider that supports adults with learning disabilities and complex needs, autism and complex physical and mental health needs. Home From Home Care was created by a family (Paul, Ann & Hugo de Savary) who required a specialist provision for their loved one (Paul & Ann's daughter/Hugo's sister). They now support 87 individuals funded by over 55 commissioning authorities nationwide.

Anna has worked with the de Savary family for over 9 years and has a passion for supporting families by talking to them about transition, sharing the family's insights and experiences of the processes, as well as sharing what Home From Home Care offers to individuals with complex needs.

Session 6: Feeding issues



Annemarie Sims

Annemarie is a clinical specialist occupational therapist who has been working with children with neurodevelopmental disorders for over 25 years.

She currently works in neurodevelopmental services including the complex feeding clinic at Evelina London Children's Hospital, where she also works closely with Amanda Tomalin.



Amanda Tomalin

Amanda Tomalin is Paediatric Epilepsy Clinical Nurse Specialist at Evelina London Children's Hospital. She has been working as a Tertiary level Epilepsy Nurse Specialist within the Complex Epilepsy Team at Evelina London Children's Hospital since the inception of the post in 2003. She also runs ELCH's Vagal Nerve Stimulator service at ELCH, in addition to supporting all children seen by the Complex Epilepsy Team.

Amanda is also a member of DSUK's Medical Advisory Board.