



Parent Champions Conference and Awards 2024

Programme

Day 1: Tuesday 14th May

10.00am **Welcome from Coram Family and Childcare**

10.05am **Co-designing services that work for people: What role can parents play?**

Sarah is a design leader, with a specialism in service and strategic design focusing on balancing the needs of people and planet. She is currently a director at [The School of Good Services](#).

Sarah was given an honorary doctorate from the Glasgow School of Art for services to design in 2019, awarded a Google Fellowship for her work in technology and democratic innovation and was named as [Good magazine's 100](#) extraordinary individuals tackling global issues in creative ways for CycleHack, an initiative to reduce barriers to cycling.

She has worked across sectors including young people services, care, education, health, local government and civic services.

Dr Sarah Drummond, Director, The School of Good Services

10.40am **Self-care and mindfulness for parents**

Mille will present on the topic of self-care, including; a context to self-care practices, connecting to personal values related to self-care, an introduction to breathing exercises, and ending with an invitation to join in with a guided relaxation practice.

Millie Chancellor, Trainee Clinical Psychologist, University College London / Parenting & Creative Therapies, Coram

11.00am **Break**

11.15am **Workshop 1 | Working with refugee communities**

Parent Champions Norfolk will share their work with the Ukrainian community, including: recruiting volunteers from the community, providing accessible training with translation, supporting refugee families with childcare and school, and community led events driven by the volunteers.

Lesia Sakhkova, Parent Champions Coordinator, Norfolk

Workshop 2 | Early education entitlements

Isha and Maria will provide overview of the new early education entitlements, why they were introduced and who they are for. They will also discuss what the new entitlements might mean for parents claiming support who have access to free early education.

Isha Sohal, Department of Education

Maria Sciara, Department of Education

12.00pm **Lunch**

12.45pm Workshop 3 | Retention and return: Delivering the expansion of early years entitlement in England

Kate will take us through research which looks at the working conditions and experiences of those currently working in the early years sector and those who have recently left. The research team gathered nearly 1,000 surveys and 60 participants in interviews and focus groups. It aims to better understand the conditions of the current early years workforce, the implications of the extended entitlement and what is needed to ensure any expansion of access can be successful, while ensuring the high-quality places that children deserve.

Professor Kate Hardy, Centre for Employment Relations, Innovation and Change, University of Leeds

Workshop 4 | Connecting with communities

Claire and Jade will share the work that Parent Champions are doing in Wrexham, speaking on connecting with the local communities and some of their volunteer-led projects. There will also be an opportunity for discussion and to share ideas.

Claire Hughes, Parent Champions Coordinator, Wrexham

Jade Humphreys-Jones, Parent Champions Volunteer, Wrexham

Workshop 5 | Things we have learned from setting up a SEND Parent Champions scheme

Rob and Farah will share their learnings of setting up a Parent Champions scheme in Kingston and Richmond supporting parents of children with SEND. The workshop will cover how this has affected the way they have set up the scheme, recruited the Parent Champions, their work with schools, and how they support their volunteers. They will be joined by a Parent Champions volunteer to share their perspective.

Rob Harris, Parent Champions Coordinator, Kingston and Richmond

Farah Ahmad, Parent Champions Coordinator, Kingston and Richmond

Linda Nystrom, Parent Champions Volunteer, Kingston and Richmond

1.30pm Close

Day 2: Wednesday 15th May

10.00am Parent Champions: A review of the year and looking forwards

Ellie Grace, Programmes and Development Manager, Coram Family and Childcare

10.30am Hear from Scheme of the Year 2023: Parent Champions Lambeth

Coreen Cole, Parent Champions Manager, Lambeth

11.00am Break

11.15am Parent Champions Awards 2024

Hosted by Carol Homden, CEO, Coram

11.45am Thank you and close

Register your place at the conference: <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/parent-champions-conference-and-awards-2024>

Coram Family and Childcare

Many parents in the UK today are frozen out of work by the cost of childcare and disadvantaged children fall behind their peers before they even start school. Coram Family and Childcare works to change this and to make the UK a better place for families.

We focus on childcare and the early years to make a difference to families' lives now and in the long term. We work to make sure that every child has access to high quality childcare and every parent is better off working once they have paid for childcare. Families who face disadvantage, social exclusion and poverty are at the heart of our work.

<https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/>

Parent Champions National Network

Parent Champions are parent volunteers who give a few hours a week to talk to other parents about the local services available to families. Coram Family and Childcare developed the Parent Champions programme in 2007 to help parents who miss out on vital information about how to access local family services.

The Parent Champions model is delivered by parents for parents, with the support of a local authority, children's centre, school or local community organisation.

The Parent Champions conference and awards is free to members of the Parent Champions National Network. The annual membership also includes many other benefits such as tailored support for your scheme, training, resources, workshops, a monthly newsletter and networking opportunities.

<https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/parent-champions-national-network>