

Community of Practice for Commissioners and Researchers in Adult Social Care

Hosted by West Midlands Association of Directors of Social Services and the University of Birmingham

12th March 2026, Edgbaston Park Hotel

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

10:00 - 10:15am (15 mins)

Welcome and Introduction – Graeme Betts CBE and Patrick Hall

Welcome from facilitator(s)

- Overview of the day's objectives
- Participant introductions (name, role, one hope for the workshop)
- Consent for photos and Chatham House Rules

10:15 - 10:45am (30 mins)

Data in Adult Social Care – Professor Matt Bennett, University of Birmingham

- An overview of Professor Bennett's work on improving data in ASC
- Discussion on application to commissioning work ongoing

10:45 - 11:15am (30 mins)

Refreshment Break

- Tea, coffee, and light refreshments
- Informal networking

11:15am – 12:00pm (45 mins)

Research Methods with Community Researchers – Keshena Bowie, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council

- Presentation of BVSC's model for training community researchers
- Discussion: what type of methods training would commissioners benefit from?

12:00 – 1:00pm (1 hr)

A short(ish) history of Adult Social Care Commissioning – Patrick Hall, University of Birmingham

- Presentation
- Discussion of vocation and identity in ASC Commissioning

1:00 – 2:00pm

Networking Lunch

- Continued informal discussion
- Opportunity for one-to-one conversations with facilitators and peers

2:00 – 3:00pm (1hr) – Exploring Costs Workshop – Dr Steve Williams, University of Birmingham

- Presentation from Steve on understanding costs in healthcare by providing an overview of the Hidden Costs of Hospital Discharge Project.
- Discussion: better understanding costs in commissioning.

3:00-3:15pm

Refreshment Break

- Tea, coffee, and light refreshments
- Informal networking

3:15 – 3:45pm – Workshop (Finding live issues) – Graeme Betts and Patrick Hall

- Interactive/Group activity: What are you working on at the moment that researchers could help with?
- Participants discuss and capture ideas
- Group feedback and synthesis

3:45

Summary and Thanks