

**Telford & Wrekin Virtual School Conference (CPD 620)**  
**Friday 7th June 2024**

**Venue: Central Telford, to be advised via the joining instructions**

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Telford & Wrekin Virtual School is pleased to announce our fifth **Annual Conference**, taking place **Friday 7th June 2024** from **8:30am to 4:00pm**. This year's theme is:

***“Inclusivity, Equity and Engagement”***

***Supporting all young people with a Social Worker and Previously Looked After Children***

***WHO SHOULD ATTEND?***

***This conference is designed for Designated Teachers, Designated Safeguarding Leads and Nominated Governors for Children in Care.***

*The conference will provide you with an opportunity to develop links with the Virtual School, Health and Social Care colleagues and with other Designated Teachers, Designated Safeguarding Leads and Nominated Governors, as we work together to increase the progress Telford & Wrekin children in care make in school and beyond. Even if you currently have no children in care at your school, it is important that you remain up to date with processes and expectations, should a child join you. In addition, Ofsted is looking quite closely at the relationship schools have with the Virtual School, and information gained at network meetings has proven very useful to many schools during inspection. Educational outcomes for children in care and children in need are a key priority for Ofsted in the West Midlands Region and inspectors have told us that they will be looking closely at how a school prioritises work with children in care when making inspection judgements.*

## Keynote speakers

### **Lisa Cherry**

*Dr Lisa Cherry is the Director of Trauma Informed Consultancy Services Ltd leading a dynamic and creative organisation that provides a 'one stop' approach to delivering on research, consultancy and learning and development. Lisa is an author, researcher, leading international trainer and consultant, specialising in assisting schools, services and systems to create systemic change to the way that we work with those experiencing and living with, the legacy of trauma. Lisa has been working in and around Education and Children's Services for over 30 years and combines academic knowledge and research with professional expertise and personal experience. Lisa has worked extensively with Social workers, Educators, Probation Workers and those in Adult Services, training and speaking to over 30,000 people around the world including in the US, Australia and Pakistan and across the whole of the UK.*

*Lisa has produced multiple pieces of research for various settings and Lisa's own MA research looked at the impact on education and employment for care experienced adults who experienced school exclusion as children in the 1970's and 1980's. Lisa completed her DPhil research at The University of Oxford in the Department of Education in January 2024, asking the research question "How do care experienced adults who were also excluded from school make sense of belonging?"*

*Lisa is the author of the hugely successful book 'Conversations that make a difference for Children and Young People' (2021) and 'The Brightness of Stars' 3rd Edition published in June 2022. A new book contract has been signed for publication in 2024/2025 on cultivating belonging.*

### **Boy Called RIC**

*Ric Flo is a Rap Artist & founder at Mantra Music CIC - the world's first record label exclusively for care experienced artists.*

*Off the back of recording his first rap project about his experience in foster care, he has witnessed how music can be a powerful tool to connect to young people who are underrepresented in music and media.*

*He has since delivered rap songwriting workshops across the UK within the care sector and schools. Building his music career as an Artist and Creative Director in rap collective Jungle Brown - signed to Mr Bongo Records in 2018; he has designed and directed the artwork, music videos and all visual assets.*

*With Jungle Brown he has been blessed to perform at prestigious festivals like Glastonbury, Boomtown and Lovebox to name a few.*

*And supported U.S Rap acts such as De La Soul, The Pharcyde and Big Daddy Kane.*

*He has a wide range of skills, love for music and lived experience lead him to creating Mantra Music in 2022.*

### **Joanna Buckard (Red Balloon)**

*Joanna has spoken at various conferences throughout the UK, taken part in and consulted on 2 FASD films, written FASD booklets, FASD e-courses and presented at international conferences. She has also presented to the Duke of Kent and High Sherriff of Cheshire and spoken in the House of Commons at the APPG on FASD. Joanna is on the expert's committee for National FASD and the steering group for a FASD parenting project. A passionate and engaging speaker. Joanna is a leading expert on FASD and how schools can support young people who may be affected by this.*

### **Andrew Baxter - DfE Children in Need Delivery Team Leader**

*As the DfE Children in Need Delivery Team Leader, Andrew is responsible for the delivery of the Virtual School Head extension to children with a social worker. His role includes national oversight for the funding and delivery of this programme as well as working with local authorities to gather evidence on progress to inform future policy and delivery decisions. Andrew works closely with the evidence and practice programme, which includes social workers in schools and designated safeguarding lead supervision to help shape delivery and sharing of emerging practice. Andrew also contributes to the development of a range of wider education and school related policies to ensure proper strategic fit with the programme. In addition, Andrew has a particular interest in the importance and use of data to support evidenced based decision making.*

## **WORKSHOPS**

Delegates will have the opportunity to attend **two** elective workshops during the day - please see below for details and indicate your preferences on the attached booking form.

### **BOOKING YOUR PLACE**

**£135 for 1 delegate**

**£195 for 2 delegates**

**£70 for each additional delegate, up to a total of 4 per school**

**Early Bird discount: Save £20 per delegate, if booked before 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

Schools which book **by 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024** are guaranteed two places, with priority being given to the Designated Teacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Nominated Governor for Children in Care. Any 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> delegate places can be requested, which will be placed on a reserve list with allocation to be confirmed by 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024, so please act quickly to secure your places. **(maximum 4 places per school)**

To book, please email your completed booking form (attached), indicating your **workshop choices and dietary requirements**, to [cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk](mailto:cpdschoolimprovement@telford.gov.uk)

If you have any questions regarding this event, please don't hesitate to contact the Virtual School directly, via [virtualschool@telford.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@telford.gov.uk)

## Workshop Choices

All delegates have the opportunity to attend **two workshop sessions**.  
Please clearly indicate your **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 'reserve' choice** on the booking form.

### **Workshop A: 'Ric Flo' The power of creativity**

**Synopsis:** *The Power of the Creativity explores how engagement in the arts positively impacts young people. Through self-expression, emotional intelligence, cognitive development, and social connections, the arts empower young people to thrive.*

*Ric will share his experience on how the creative arts played a vital role in his life in care, his work with young people and ideas to unlock creativity in your young people.*

### **Workshop B: 'What makes the difference?' Joe Leppington CPD Lead and our Young People**

**Synopsis:** *During this workshop you will hear directly from our young people in Telford & Wrekin about what has and is making the difference in their lives. We will explore the key people and relationships which have helped support them in schools. What strategies have helped support them the most in schools and their ideas for how schools can change for the better in future.*

### **Workshop C: Working Together - Supporting and Engaging with Families**

**Louise Spragg and Dan Machin (principal Social Workers)**

**Synopsis:** *This session will look at best practice when working with families, the current local picture and multi-agency working. We will also explore some real life examples of how working together has helped our young people through case studies. There will be a particular emphasis on the importance of how we engage our young people and families and the language we use to connect.*

### **Workshop D: FASD strategies for the classroom – Red Balloon**

**Synopsis:** *This session will explore practical strategies to support young people with FASD in the classroom. It will help classroom practitioners to be able to identify the behaviours and needs of a young person with FASD to prevent misdiagnosis and how they can be best supported to thrive and succeed.*

### **Workshop E: 'Helping Children with Loss – Sarah Machin**

**Synopsis:** *How do I help children experiencing loss? What do I say/not say? Where do I start?*

*Helping Children with Loss was written as part of the evidence based Grief Recovery Method to support parents, carers and professionals who work with children. Children may experience up to 15 different types of losses by the age of 15 including the loss of a parent, pet, home, school, change of routine etc. By attending this workshop, you will be introduced to the skills, language and knowledge needed to support them. I will share my own experiences of working with children and their losses.*

*The aim is to heal children's broken hearts.*

### **Workshop F: Restorative Practice – Telford & Wrekin Education Psychology Team**

**Synopsis:** *This session will look at what restorative practice is, the key principles behind this approach, examples of how it is used in schools and how it can serve as an alternative to exclusion. The session will be delivered by the Telford & Wrekin Education Psychology team.*