



**Roundtable #2 on workforce issues:
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and future jobs**
Thursday 29 June, The Storyhouse, Chester

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

09:30 **Registration**

10:00 **Welcome and introductions**

Rose McArthur, Director – Transport and Highways, Cheshire West & Chester

10:05 **Introducing Session 1: What’s stopping us reaching EDI?**

Mark Saunders, facilitator

10:15 **Setting the scene – short presentations to inspire**

- **AMPLify** programme: Laying the foundations to build a legacy
Mae Wilson, Programme Manager – Diversity & Inclusion, SOLACE
- What does a menopause-friendly workplace look like?
Sally Leech, Director, Menopause in the Workplace
- Is place a safe place?
*Speakers: Robert Jones, Equality & Diversity Manager and Peter Grime, Accessibility Officer
Cheshire West & Chester Council*
- Embracing neuro-diversity (video)

10:45 **Group exercise & discussion**

- Is the Place sector visible and accessible to all?
- What changes could we make to accommodate currently excluded groups?
- Do we need a finer focus on different demographics?
- Feedback

12:00 **Plenary re-group**

Deliverable: Series of ‘personal(ised)’ case studies, blogs, ‘my experience was...’ ‘if only there was....’

12:30 **Networking lunch**

13:30 **Introducing Session 2: Future skills and jobs**

Mark Saunders, facilitator

13:35 **Setting the scene – presentations to inspire**

- What are the skills we will need in 2035?
Speaker: Dr Lisa Morrison Coulthard, Research Director, National Foundation for Educational Research
- What new approaches/soft skills do we need post-pandemic?
Speakers: Krishan Adams & Luke Clifford, Carrington West
- What are the potential implications of ChatGPT on Place?
Speaker: Rupert Lorraine, Director of The Arts Institute, University of Plymouth
- The future is data and AI
Speaker: Joshua Wood, FYLD

14:05 **Group exercise & discussion**

- How do we get from here to there?
- Identify some future specific implications in Place if we automate?
- What should we be doing as 'Place?' Is central Government ready?
- Feedback




15:20 **Plenary re-group**



15:50 **Summary and close**

Mark Saunders, facilitator

Deliverable: Balanced white paper discussing the pro's and con's, highlighting challenges such as retraining/funding and the benefits or otherwise of ChatGPT

Speaker biographies

<p>Rose McArthur, Director – Transport and Highways, Cheshire West & Chester Council</p> 	<p>Rose has over 20 years’ experience delivering strategic transport programmes with a focus on low carbon outcomes across the globe.</p> <p>She joined CW&C in 2021 from Mott MacDonald where she was a Technical Director. She has delivered projects that include the transport strategy behind the London Olympics, Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Gold Coast as well as the movement strategy behind the build of the Sydney Light Rail and Melbourne Metro.</p> <p>She has worked as a strategic advisor to the DfT developing their covid recovery strategies for transport. She was heavily involved in the surface access strategy for Heathrow airport. Her technical specialism is Travel Demand Management which is a data driven approach to influencing travel behaviours which seeks to deliver a net zero outcome for transport.</p> <p>As the Director for Transport and Highways she manages a hugely diverse portfolio that includes Strategic Transport, Transport Commissioning, Public Transport, Active Travel, Flooding, P&R and Fleet amongst many other areas.</p>
<p>Mark Saunders, Colas – facilitator</p> 	<p>Mark is Client Director within Colas Ltd. He engages clients and other stakeholders in strategy, innovation and thought leadership and works to align client demand with relevant capability. Mark brings a proven track record in successful collaborative relationships, often using new business models to seek a win : win for all parties. He has run international programmes of innovation and technology application across the UK, Spain, Australia and North America.</p> <p>He is a chartered scientist and, following completion of his first degree at Oxford University, studied his MBA at Henley Business School. He has held leadership roles across business, local and national government groups related to smart cities, highways, sustainable development and renewable energy.</p>
<p>Mae Wilson, Programme Manager – Diversity & Inclusion, SOLACE</p> 	<p>Mae is a passionate and dedicated OD professional with several years’ experience of working in local government. She feels incredibly proud to be one of the people who can say their interest in the public sector started when she did her work experience at her local city council aged 15.</p> <p>Before joining Solace, Mae worked at Doncaster Council. She started her local government career at North Lincolnshire Council as part of the LGA: National Graduate Development Programme, where she gained an insight into the breadth of services, and challenges facing this sector.</p> <p>Mae’s key passion is ensuring that local government is considered as a fantastic employer of choice, a great place to work where staff are inspired to give their best, and individual’s talents and differences are promoted, celebrated and</p>

	<p>respected. Mae was also the recipient of PPMA’s One to Watch 2020 award for HR professionals.</p>
<p>Sally Leech, Director, Menopause in the Workplace</p> 	<p>Sally is the Training Director of Henpicked: Menopause in the Workplace. Henpicked have been working with UK-wide and international organisations for over 7 years to make it easier for them to introduce the right training, policies and practices to raise awareness, education and support of this critical area. In 2021, she supported the launch of Menopause Friendly Membership and accreditation. The membership is now supporting leading employers to achieve Menopause Friendly Accreditation. With nearly 400 members, and over 50 who’ve actually achieved the award including HSBC UK, BAE Systems and Leicestershire County Council.</p> <p>On 14 September 2023 the industry-recognised Menopause Friendly Employer Awards will take place for a second year to highlight and celebrate best practice, and to recognise those employers who are leading the way in supporting their colleagues. Also raising vital funds for menopause charities and research.</p>
<p>Robert Jones, Equality & Diversity Manager and Peter Grime, Accessibility Officer - Cheshire West & Chester Council</p>	<p>To follow</p>
<p>Dr Lisa Morrison Coulthard, Research Direct, National Foundation for Educational Research</p> 	<p>Lisa has over 25 years’ experience in strategic policy development and stakeholder engagement and influence. She leads research strategy development in NFER’s optimal pathways portfolio, which includes social mobility (especially in disadvantaged and vulnerable groups), post-16 education, employment, and skills. An experienced project manager and director, Lisa is also currently the Stakeholder Engagement lead for the Skills Imperative 2035 research programme.</p> <p>She has particular expertise in strategic planning and leadership on public affairs, policy and stakeholder engagement and influencing, including the monitoring and measurement of impact.</p> <p>Lisa has a strong record of collaborating across internal and external stakeholders to ensure that opportunities for increasing voice, reputation and impact are maximised. She is an exceptional networker and adept at connecting perspectives to provide insights and intel to NFERs work.</p> <p>Lisa is a Chartered Psychologist and has a BSc (Hons) in Psychology and a PhD in Applied Psychology.</p>
<p>Krishan Adams & Luke Clifford, Carrington West</p>	<p>Krishan Adams – Lead Consultant, Town Planning</p> <p>Krish is an experienced town planning recruiter, working for award-winning UK built environment recruitment company,</p>



Carrington West. He provides specialist town planning permanent recruitment solutions to private sector companies and local authorities. Shortlisted for an award in 2019 by the Recruitment Employment Confederation (REC), Krish has built a name for himself as an interim and temporary recruiter before starting up the permanent recruitment desk at Carrington West. Krish holds a degree in Business Enterprise Development from the University of Portsmouth.

Jason Kohl - Team Leader Highways, Infrastructure & Transportation

Jason has over a decade of experience and leads Carrington West’s highways public sector (regions) team, supporting clients across England, Scotland and Wales. Jason’s team supply temporary staff to both local authorities and term maintenance providers. Jason is also responsible for the provision of other added-value services, including IR35 support, to the dozens of clients his team supports annually. He is an expert relationship builder and has a market leading network of professionals across large regional pockets of the UK.

Rupert Lorraine, Director of The Arts Institute, University of Plymouth



Director of The Arts Institute at the University of Plymouth; responsible for leading the combination of The Arts Institute and its cultural programme, The Bridge and the Faculty’s Research and Creative Industries Unit into one, dynamic new entity; helping to deliver the Faculty’s vision of enabling people and places to thrive, and mission to work in partnership to drive social, cultural, educational, and economic prosperity. Rupert is also a passionate GPT-4 enthusiast and advocate; helping individuals and organisations unlock the potential of AI, enhance their operational efficiency, and foster innovation with the aim to make AI not just accessible, but approachable for everyone, regardless of their starting point.

Joshua Wood, FYLD

To follow