

State of Caring Conference 2026: Supporting carers in a changing world

Thursday 14 May 2026

BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP

Time	Session
9.00am	Registration
9.30am	Welcome from Chair Jane Hill , Journalist and Broadcaster
9.35am	Setting the scene Helen Walker , Chief Executive, Carers UK
9.50am	Keynote speaker The Baroness Casey of Blackstock DBE CE , Chair of the Independent Commission for Adult Social Care
10.05am	Q&A
10.15am	Keynote speaker Kate Dearden MP , Minister for Employment Rights and Consumer Protection, Department for Business and Trade
10.30am	Move to breakout rooms
10.35am	<p>Breakout sessions</p> <p>Breakout 1: Building the workforce of the future: redesigning work and skills Chair: Janet Williamson, Head of Corporate Governance and Collective Bargaining, TUC</p> <p>Dr Andrea Barry, Deputy Director of Work, Retirement and Transitions, Centre for Ageing Better Phil Whaite, Workplace Manager and Co-Chair, AccessAbility Network, A&O Shearman</p> <p>Breakout 2: Making the business case: championing change Chair: Liam Slattery, Director of People Services, Barts Health NHS Trust Neal Barcoe, Director, Civil, Family, Tribunals & Administration of Justice, MoJ Nisha Marwaha, Director of Employee Relations, Belonging and Learning and Development, VM02</p>

	<p>Breakout 3: Making carer’s support work well - Standards and quality assurance Chair: Chris Badger, Chief Inspector for Social Care, Care Quality Commission Hayley Eccles, Assistant Director Social Care, Lincolnshire County Council, and Co-Chair of the ADASS Carers Policy Network – <i>findings and impact of the assessment process and where next</i> Arabjan Iqbal, Better Care Fund Manager, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Emily Holzhausen CBE, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Carers UK – <i>the carer’s perspective</i></p> <p>Breakout 4: Population health: carer identification and support across NHS, social care and communities Chair: Dr Neil Churchill OBE, Director of People and Communities, NHS England. Michael Rose, Lead Commissioner – Learning Disabilities, Autism, Mental Health, Dementia & Carers Adults Commissioning, Integration and Market Development, Derby City Council – <i>Making identification of carers work across care and health</i> Katy Heard, Carers Lead, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust Anna Sarwer, University of Sheffield: Using Centre for Data data dashboard to improve support for diverse groups – Sheffield City Council</p> <p>Breakout 5: Making work pay Chair: Dr Mike Brewer, Deputy Chief Executive, Resolution Foundation Tamara Sandoul, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Carers UK – <i>Why work matters – maximising carers’ incomes through work</i> Dr Alison Carter, Principal Research Fellow , Institute for Employment Studies: ReACT – <i>Supporting carers to return to work, evidence and what works</i> Luke Bramall, Chief Executive, Newcastle Carers – <i>supporting carers to return to work – in practice</i></p>
11.35am	Break
12.00pm	<p>Panel: Reflections from the breakout sessions Chaired by Jane Hill with the five breakout session chairs as contributors</p> <p>Poll</p>
12.50pm	Lunch
1.45pm	<p>Breakout sessions</p> <p>Breakout 6: Transforming work and care across the lifecourse Chair: Ben Harrison, Director of the Work Foundation at Lancaster University Nicola Walker, Lead Communications and Engagement Manager and Co-Chair, Parents & Carers Network, Tesco Emma Dennis, DE&I and Wellbeing Senior Manager, Gowling WLG</p> <p>Breakout 7: Maximising talent: attracting and growing the best Chair: Kate Evans, Chief People Officer for EMEPAC, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP Nadiya Rahman, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Care Quality Commission Alexander MacDonald, Ombudsman Leader, Financial Ombudsman Service</p>

	<p>Breakout 8: Neighbourhood Health and integration of services: supporting carers Chair: Professor Dr Claire Fuller, Medical Director for Primary Care, Professional Standards and Lists Reporting Emily Holzhausen CBE, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Carers UK – <i>carers views and Neighbourhood Health – the potential</i> Claire Turner, Chief Executive, Carers Leeds – <i>Neighbourhood Health and caring: a local carers’ service practice perspective and potential for change.</i> Lizzie Eden, Carer Engagement Facilitator for GP practices, Participation Team, Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust – <i>Identification of carers in GP practices – good practice, outcomes and the potential for Neighbourhood Health.</i></p> <p>Breakout 9: Data and digital – improving carers’ experiences, support and outcomes Chair: Professor Kate Hamblin, Director of Centre for Care, University of Sheffield John Perryman, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Carers UK – <i>What carers think of digital, tech assisted living and data from A fresh New Approach</i> Nicola Gill, National Proxy Service Team, NHS England – <i>Development of the proxy service – feedback from carers and plans going forward</i> Michele Stokes, Chief Executive, Carers in Hertfordshire Tim Napper – Carers Lead, Hertfordshire County Council – <i>Using data and digital for the power of good – building quality data to support reducing health inequalities and risk-stratification</i></p> <p>Breakout 10: Making care services work for employment: The infrastructure for work and care Chair: Helen Walker, Chief Executive, Carers UK Melanie Crew, Research and Policy Manager, Carers UK – <i>The Tipping Point in care, factors, evidence and how to prevent carers from leaving work.</i> Darcy Jones, Sustainability Manager, Standard Life plc – <i>Tipping Point in Care: the employers view evidence and practice</i> Phil Holmes, Executive Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Culture at the City of Doncaster Council and President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services</p>
2.45pm	Move to main plenary
2.50pm	<p>Panel: Reflections from the breakout sessions Chaired by Jane Hill with the five breakout session chairs as contributors</p> <p>Poll</p>
3.40pm	<p>External plenary speaker Sir Charlie Mayfield, Lead Reviewer, Keep Britain Working Independent Review</p>
3.55pm	Reflections from Conference Chair
4.00pm	Drinks reception and networking
5.30pm	Conference closes