

## Cambridgeshire Virtual School Conference – The Workshops

Delegates will have the opportunity to take part in two workshops. There will be a clear education focus across all workshops as well as practical strategies to support professionals.

Please choose your preferences on the Microsoft Office form and then we will do our best to offer all delegates their preferred choices.

### Keynote Speech - FASD as a diagnosis with Dr Cassie Jackson

*Dr Cassie Jackson will be giving an opening talk introducing FASD as a diagnosis, including information about how a diagnosis is made, and the conditions that commonly co-occur. She will provide information about the neurodevelopmental and neurocognitive profile of FASD, and how this manifests itself in a school setting and beyond. Information about managing educational and behavioural challenges will also be discussed.*

### Presentation - Interplay between Trauma and FASD

*Dr Cassie Jackson will be providing a short thirty-minute session discussing the relationship between FASD and trauma, including a review of the relevant literature, and drawing upon her own clinical experience in this area.*

#### **Practical Resources and Strategies to Support Education with Sandra Butcher**

*This workshop brings together Sandy's personal and professional experience to consider resources and strategies that have been effectively applied to steer her son through the education system. The resources have contributed to the 'Me & My FASD resources' and are now widely used across the UK and beyond.*

#### **Living with Young People with FASD with Brian Roberts**

*As an educator and parent, this workshop brings together Brian and his family's lived experiences. Brian has supported his children through the school system, attempting to ensure that the correct SEND support was in place for them leading to effective preparation for adulthood. Brian will present what it is like to care for a young person with FASD using a personal narrative, looking at educational issues and the interaction between home and school. Opportunities will be provided for delegates to consider the implications for children and young people that they work with.*

#### **Understanding the Speech and Language Profile of Children with FASD with Mahala Carter-Slenn**

This workshop will consider the typical development of language and communication and how this may be impacted by prenatal exposure to alcohol and associated trauma, the 'typical' profile of language and communication skills of those with FASD, and practical approaches to support and develop the communication skills of young people with communication impairments.

#### **Transitions to Adulthood with Joanna Buckard**

This workshop looks at the needs young people transitioning to adulthood, taking into account the young person's functional ability and assessments of need. It will consider the potential difficulties with housing, employment, accessing services and the criminal justice system. It will provide a focus on the difference appropriate support can make to the individual.

## Cambridgeshire Virtual School Conference – Biographies

### Dr Cassie Jackson

*Dr Cassie Jackson is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist, a Member of the Health Professionals Council, and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. She holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, and a post-doctoral diploma in paediatric neuropsychology.*

*Cassie began her clinical career in the NHS in neuro-rehabilitation and pain management, before moving into Suffolk Community Paediatric Services where she remained for roughly ten years. Within this post, she created a neuropsychological assessment pathway for children. It quickly transpired that over half of the referrals received in this pathway related to suspected FASD, and this is where her special interest in FASD began. Following a further post as service lead in acute paediatrics, Cassie left the NHS to work independently. In 2019, Cassie opened the Centre for FASD, an assessment and diagnostic service intended to fill the huge gap in service provision for children with suspected FASD. This quickly became well-known nationwide, and CFF provided a service for many children across the UK, who may otherwise have been denied assessment. Unfortunately however, changes to the way services were commissioned for adopted children resulted in the Centre having to close its doors in 2022. Nonetheless, Cassie has continued to provide training to education, social care teams, and NHS services in relation to FASD. She also works as an expert witness in Child Protection, providing psychological assessments to children and their families who are in Care Proceedings, in addition to offering private neuropsychological, ASD, and ADHD assessments. From April 2023, she will also be working with Dr Raja Mukherjee at The Surrey FASD Clinic on a part time basis, to increase their capacity to provide supervision and support to various community paediatric services to facilitate the roll-out of regional FASD provision.*

### Sandra Butcher

*Sandy is the CEO of National FASD, she joined the organisation in January 2017. Working with the Trustees, Sandy has been overseeing a realignment and expansion of the organisation's projects. She works with stakeholders, experts, the media and policy makers to promote greater awareness of and support for those with FASD.*

*Sandy is mum to a teen with FASD. She and her husband are co-founders of the Hertfordshire FASD Support Network. Sandy is a lay member of the NICE Quality Standard on FASD Specialist Committee.*

### Mahala Carter-Slenn

*Mahala is an independent Speech and Language therapist specialising in Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. Mahala has experience in assessing and supporting the communication needs of young people in mainstream education and within specialist provisions, this includes working within specialist SEMH schools, outreach education services and with children who are currently not in education. Mahala has also worked at the centre for FASD as part of the diagnostic team and she currently completing a piece of research into the language profiles of young people with FASD.*

### Brian Roberts

*Brian is a trained secondary teacher who is now an independent consultant and trainer on supporting vulnerable and traumatised people throughout the UK. He has been Virtual School Head in two English Local Authorities and has worked on numerous national educational pilots as well as with several national charities and voluntary organisations. He is Chair of Governors in a Cambridgeshire Special School and was previously on the Governing Bodies of schools in all phases.*

*Brian has been a Local Authority foster carer for over 25 30 years. Alongside his wife they have been the Special Guardians of three girls that they previously looked after and continue to provide long term foster placements. They live in Cambridgeshire with three young people diagnosed as having been affected by pre-natal alcohol use, currently aged 231, 2018 & 142. Brian has been involved in working in the FASD field for over 15 years.*

### Joanna Buckard

*Joanna is a specialist FASD trainer and Health and Social Care Lecturer and has been working within the FASD field for 19 years and within the social care and education sector for over 25 years. Her education includes BSc (hons) Psychology, MSc Developmental Psychology and a PGCE. Joanna works as the Director of Innovation for National FASD and has been consulting on National FASD projects over the last 16 years including working with experts, policy-makers, the media, speaking at conferences, delivering training, writing materials for Midwives and GPs and e-learning courses. Joanna has presented research on FASD nationally and internationally and has also spoken in parliament as part of the APPG on FASD. She has been on the steering group for a University of Salford FASD parenting course. Joanna has conducted research on the experience of adults with FASD in the UK, authored a book chapter published on Social Care Issues and Complex Family Relationships Intertwined with FASD. She has also recently undertaken research on how FASD is managed in the UK criminal justice system.*