



# THE Care Conference for Somerset, hosted by RCPA 2024

**Train to Retain  
Tuesday 12th November  
Taunton Racecourse, TA3 7BL**

Dear colleague,

We are delighted to announce our annual conference on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024; we hope that you find the day engaging, informative and useful. Thanks to your feedback from last year's conference, we have made some improvements.

The theme for the day is 'Train to retain' with a special focus on the proposed Academy built on the site of the former Bridgwater Community Hospital.

As our ageing population increases and Somerset is seen as a desirable place to live, work and retire, this brings different expectations about support and often more complex needs. Scenario planning and the latest publication of the Skills for Care Workforce Strategy - *Attract and retain, train, and transform* mandates parity of access to good quality and affordable training and an emphasis on integrated care with three main drivers for change:

1. The shape of care
2. The shape of work
3. The shape of education, including bite size learning, soft skills, and critical thinking.

It is envisaged that the new Academy will provide a 'one stop' centre of excellence, accessible to all colleagues across the sector.

Engagement with plans for the Academy represents an opportunity for us all to ensure the adult social care voice is heard, to help shape training now and for our successors as we pave the way for future leaders and decision makers in care. This event provides an opportunity to be part of workstreams, innovation and workforce training and influence the direction of care and training.

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During your care conference, you will hear from a range of speakers and workshop facilitators who will provide you with an opportunity to reflect on and share how you can meet these challenges, be part of shaping a training model fit for the future and our unique training Academy for Somerset. We hope you will also enjoy the 'lighter' side of the day, with a raffle to be drawn, some magical moments and scrumptious refreshments and lunch!

Please make time to explore the wide range of products and services on offer in the trade area, register for workshops, and take the time out to develop new relationships and catch up with colleagues.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Richard Brice, RCPA Chair,

Hilary Robinson, RCPA CEO.

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### On the day

We are excited to announce our keynote speaker will be Neil Eastwood, author of 'Saving Social Care'.

### About Neil Eastwood

Neil began his connection with social care in 1977 as a somewhat reluctant paid home help to ageing parishioners from his father's church. After several adventures, he became director of a homecare provider with 10,000 staff and became fascinated with how to find and keep a high-quality care workforce.

This led to presenting his findings at over 500 care sector events and in 2017, publishing a book, 'Saving Social Care', about his findings, now in its second edition with over 10,000 copies sold.

He is also Founder and CEO of Care Friends, an employee referral app, which won the 2023 King's Award for Innovation and is now used in 3,000 care settings in the UK, Ireland, and Australia.

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The day will include presentations, workshops as well as a Q&A panel including health and social care colleagues and MPs. During breaks and lunch, you will have the opportunity to browse numerous exhibitors and network with other delegates from Somerset's care sector.

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## Workshops

- 1. Jo Ashton, Optimise Workplace Wellbeing – ‘Training - Making it Valuable to the Individual and your Business.’** We will look at the benefits of having a varied and robust training offering, and how you can do that with the right support, whilst getting value from the training and value for money. People appreciate being valued, feeling a part of a team and feeling cared for by their employer; this has much more of an impact on whether they stay at an organisation, over what they earn. Did you know that there are 3 important factors to attracting and retaining the right people for your business? Come along to our workshop and find out what they are...
- 2. Daniel Plummer, Project Delivery Officer, RCPA – ‘National Cyber Security Centre Exercise in a Box: Supply Chain Software’**  
This interactive exercise is led by the RCPA's Daniel Plummer and explores an incident where a critical third-party software has been compromised, allowing remote access by unauthorised users.  
This session will focus on:
  - Assessing your IT procurement process: Discover the best practice to ensure you're selecting the most secure systems.
  - Strengthening supply chain security: learn how to identify and mitigate risks within your supply chain.
  - Monitoring and strategy: discuss techniques for monitoring and protecting your critical IT systems.
  - Responding to third-party compromise: learn how to effectively respond and mitigate breaches to software.

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- Felix Lester, Cyber Protect Officer, Avon & Somerset Police - 'Cyber Escape Room'** Calling all aspiring cyber detectives! Put your investigative prowess to the test and join us for an exhilarating twist on the classic escape room experience. Dive into the captivating narrative as you work to clear the name of your colleague. Along the way, you'll uncover top-notch cyber security tips to safeguard yourself and your organisation from the ever-looming threat of cybercrime. Can you crack the code and emerge as the ultimate cyber champion?
- Chris Amys/James Sage – RWK Goodman - Proposed workforce and employment law changes being introduced by Labour and the new Skills for Care workforce strategy for social care.** Following Labour's victory in the general election, the new Government have proposed wide-ranging reforms of employment law which will impact your business. During this webinar, we will consider the Government's key policy statements and pledges relating to employment law and workers' rights made by Labour in the lead-up to the general election, as well as developments since the party came to power, including announcements in Parliament.
- The Somerset Health and Care Academy - Workforce and Training – Help Shape the Future of Health and Care in Somerset**  
**Hosted by Belinda Lock, Deputy Director Resourcing & Supply and Oliver Fletcher, Somerset Integrated Care System Workforce Programme Lead.**  
Want to play a key role in shaping the workforce and training for the future of health and care services in Somerset? This is your moment!  
Join us for an engaging workshop with the Somerset Health and Care Academy. We're combining insights from innovation projects with practical, efficient solutions to develop a strong and capable workforce across Somerset, bringing the vision of the Somerset Health and Care Academy to life. Share your feedback on your own training and development needs and be part of crafting the future Skills Training Programme. Help us build a brighter future—together!



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### **6. The Somerset Health and Care Academy – Innovation – Shape the Future of Health and Social Care**

**Hosted by Somerset Council's Gordon Dwyer, Economic Development Specialist and Somerset Health and Care Academy Innovation Workstream Lead; Claire Collett, Tech Enabled Care Lead and Somerset Health and Care Academy Innovation Workstream Lead; and Jaycee Ellis, Somerset Health and Care Academy Project Manager.**

Are you ready to make a real impact on the future of Research and Development in Health and Social Care? This is your chance.

Join us for an exciting workshop with the Somerset Health and Care Academy, where you'll discover how cutting-edge technology is transforming how care is delivered. Get a first-hand look at the innovative solutions being developed — and help us shape and refine them. Plus, a look at the ways in which Health and Social Care is being delivered digitally with technology and how this may shape the future of provision.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to explore the future of care. Together, we'll push the boundaries of what's possible.

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### **Full programme below**

To book your place please complete the attached booking form (which details fees) and return to [admin@rcpa.org.uk](mailto:admin@rcpa.org.uk)

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## Programme 'Train to Retain'

09.15hrs	Registration, tea, coffee, and light entertainment
09.45hrs	Richard Brice RCPA Chair, Hilary Robinson CEO, RCPA - welcome address
09.55hrs	Somerset Council presentations
10.20hrs	Sponsor presentations
10.40hrs	Mei Ling Huang, Partner, RWK - 'CQC's Single Assessment Framework: implementation, criticism, and the potential direction of travel for the regulation of social care'
11.10hrs	<i>Break and light entertainment</i>
11.30hrs	'The elephants in the room' - Paul Coles, Somerset Council
11.50hrs	RCPA Trusted Assessor video presentation - 'The lived experience of our Bournemouth University nursing students' - Q&As
12.10hrs	Q and A panel
12.45hrs	<i>Lunch and trade stands</i>
13.30hrs	Keynote speaker - Neil Eastwood, Author of 'Saving Social Care'
14.20hrs	Workshops 1
15.05hrs	Break and raffle
15.20hrs	Workshop 2
16.00 -16.15hrs	Close

Please note, programme is subject to change and further details will be sent out in due course.