

Supporting registered manager network chairs

Ideas for speakers

When we asked the managers who attend networks what they got from their meetings, 85% of respondents rated presentations by external speakers as useful. We also know that each quarter, over 50% of network meetings that take place include a contribution from a guest speaker.

As well as your own ideas on who you would like to come to speak to your network, your Skills for Care locality manager can help with this. In addition, we've highlighted some suggested external speakers in the list below that have attended network meetings previously. Please note you may need to contact your locality manager for the contact details of some speakers or for further information.

- **The Care Quality Commission (CQC)**

Networks engaging with their local CQC **inspection team** have had the opportunity to discuss issues, hear from inspectors about what they are looking for and how they work, and get updates on the latest changes to standards. Additionally, you could consider inviting the **medicines optimisation team** to discuss medicine management.

CQC will usually require you to complete a form to request a member of staff to speak at your network. You will need to give CQC at least 6-8 weeks' notice of your event before submitting the form. For further information, please visit [here](#).

- **Your local authority**

Networks have had useful conversations with local authority representatives on a range of subjects including local contracting and safeguarding, as well as new policies and procedures. You could consider inviting **safeguarding leads**, **quality teams** and **adult & community learning teams** from your local authority.

- **Local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) or NHS Trusts**

The NHS has spoken to networks about commissioning, infection control, hospital discharges, new initiatives, and local services. We have also seen pharmacists and community pharmacy teams speak to networks about medicines management. Find the contact details for your local CCG on the NHS website [here](#).

- **Integrated Care System (ICS)**

Networks have had useful discussions with ICSs, including the chair of the people board, EDI / workforce / digital leads, as well as the wellbeing / resilience hub leads and the nurse associate lead. Find out more about integrated care in your area on the NHS website [here](#).

- **Strategic leads**

Consider inviting [Enhanced Health in Care Homes](#) leads, digital first leads, medicines optimisation leads, so networks get direct information and can sometimes influence how these strategies are managed locally.

- **A member of your nearest NICE field team**

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) produces guidance and quality standards. A speaker from NICE can: provide an understanding of the role and function of NICE; describe NICE guidance; help to identify local challenges to use in practice and offer solutions based on the experience of others; demonstrate how using relevant NICE guidance and standards help providers prepare for CQC inspection and improve the quality of their services; demonstrate the tools available that support the use of NICE guidance and quality standards.

Contact your nearest NICE field team [here](#).

- **ACAS**

[ACAS](#) offers employees and employers free, impartial advice on workplace rights, rules, and best practice. It also offers training and help to resolve disputes. In addition to ACAS, you could also consider inviting local employment specialist solicitors and other local employment support offers / pre-employment initiatives, etc. to the networks. For your regional contact at ACAS, please speak to your locality manager for further information.

- **Quality Compliance Systems (QCS)**

[QCS](#) has developed a comprehensive set of policies, procedures and toolkits to empower care providers to deliver high-quality care. In addition to its resources, QCS runs a series of themed webinars. If you would like to invite QCS to attend a network to deliver a presentation on a specific topic, please contact your locality manager for further details.

- **Citation**

[Citation](#) offers HR, employment law and health & safety support and expertise, by a localised service, backed by a nationwide team.

- **POhWER**

[POwHER](#) delivers information, advice, support and advocacy services throughout England. POhWER works in local authority areas across most of England, but please check the website first to see if it provides services in your area [here](#).

- **Outstanding providers**

Quality and 'going from good to outstanding' are common themes at network meetings; so, inviting a local outstanding provider can be a great way to learn from how others have done it! You can search for outstanding-rated providers on the CQC website [here](#).

- **Digital**

Developing digital leadership and growing the wider sector's skills are inter-

dependent. Digital technology has the power to transform services and provides the sector with huge opportunity. Consider inviting the following organisations to your networks:

- [Digital social care](#) – provides advice and support to the sector on technology and data protection
- [Digital Barclays Eagles](#) – helps people working in the sector learn important digital skills to work more efficiently
- [Sight and Sound](#) – tech to support visual and sensory impairments

▪ **Playlist for Life**

[Playlist for Life](#) can tell you about how music can help people with dementia and how to create a playlist for them.

▪ **SeeAbility**

Several networks have invited [SeeAbility](#), which is a national charity, but has some specific funding for the North West and London. It offers training for people with a learning disability on good eye care, delivered with eye care ambassadors who are people with lived experience. SeeAbility also offers training for staff teams. For your regional contact at SeeAbility, please speak to your locality manager for further information or visit [here](#).

▪ **LGBTQ+**

Consider inviting local support groups for LGBTQ+ people. Skills for Care also supports [the Purple List](#), a 35-minute, one-man play, about raising awareness around the potential issues for those caring for someone with dementia, and the barriers to support which members of the gay community may perceive and experience.

▪ **Local training offers / links with higher education institutions (HEIs)**

Colleges and universities are often keen to talk to networks about training but also how they might build links with providers to support recruitment. Inviting HEIs is also beneficial to include topics that are evidence based, e.g., MBA / PhD students presenting their research findings when relevant to social care. Additionally, consider inviting local training hubs and primary care networks (PCNs) to present their offer to the sector, with the opportunity for employers to possibly influence the offer being made.

▪ **Care Workers Charity and others providing support for care workers**

Networks have found speakers from the [Care Workers Charity](#) and other organisations providing support for care workers often help managers to support their staff better.

▪ **Places of Welcome**

[Places of Welcome](#) are run by local community groups who want everyone in their neighbourhood to have a place to go for a friendly face, a cup of tea and a conversation if and when they need it. There is a list of Places of Welcome local community groups listed on the website. For further details, please visit [here](#).

▪ **The National Dignity Council**

The [council](#) exists to shape and influence the work of the Dignity in Care campaign (aims to put dignity and respect at the heart of UK care services), and campaigns for, and supports Dignity Champions. To contact the council, please speak to your locality manager for contact details.

- **Department of Works & Pensions (DWP), Princes Trust**

Networks have had useful discussions with DWP and others leading on some of the government initiatives to support recruitment and careers, so employers can engage better and feedback on their concerns, etc.

- **Care Friends**

[Care Friends](#) is an employee referral app to help find the right quality of care staff. The founder and CEO of Care Friends, Neil Eastwood, is also the author of Saving Social Care. Please speak to your locality manager for contact details.

- **Staff mental health and wellbeing hubs**

The [hubs](#) have been set up to provide health and social care colleagues rapid access to assessment and local evidence-based mental health services and support where needed. Some networks have invited the wellbeing hubs' clinical leads to meetings, which have been received well. Further information on the hubs is also available on the Skills for Care [website](#).

- **A Cyber Protect Officer from your Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU)**

There are ten ROCUs across England and Wales that have a range of specialist policing capabilities, and this includes a dedicated cyber security team that works with organisations and communities to promote the steps that will reduce the chances of becoming a victim of cyber-crime. Contact details for the cyber protect officers within the ROCUs can be found [here](#).

- **Others**

- [Local Enterprise Partnership \(LEPs\)](#) / Growth Hubs
- Careers & enterprise
- [Local fire brigade](#)
- [Local ambulance service](#)
- Chiropodists
- Oral health leads
- Voluntary sector leads re: local initiatives
- Reps from expert by experience groups
- Local organisations that offer support to people with sensory loss to give 'top tips' to support people with hearing & sight loss
- Speakers from BAME perspectives
- Speakers from disability rights groups
- Speakers outside of the sector to constructively challenge our perceptions of what social care is all about

These are just some of the possible speakers you could invite to your next network meeting – there are many more we haven't mentioned here. Speak to the managers at your network about who they would like to hear from and if you need support arranging a speaker, talk to your locality manager.