



## National Opportunity Summit - Building a country that works for all children and young people

**Date: 8th September 2025**

**Venue: Cloth Hall Court, Quebec St, Leeds, [LS1 2HA](#)**

### AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30	<b>Arrival and Register</b>
9:30 – 9:40	<b>Welcome; CHORAL and Child of the North</b>  <b>Professor Shearer West</b> , Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds <b>Professor Charlie Jeffery</b> , Vice Chancellor, University of York
9:40 – 9:55	<b>Welcome and introduction from Chairs</b>  <b>Baroness Anne Longfield CBE</b> , Executive Chair and Founder, Centre for Young Lives <b>Rachel Sylvester</b> , Political Editor, The Observer
9:55 – 10:25	<b>Delivering the Opportunity Mission for children, young people and families</b>  <b>Janet Daby</b> , Minister for Children and Families
10:25 – 10:35	<b>Universities supporting the Opportunity Mission - Child of the North</b>  <b>Professor Matthew Grenby</b> , Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle University
10:35 – 10:50	<b>A country that works for all children and young people</b>  <b>Professor Kate Pickett OBE</b> , Director, Born in Bradford Centre for Social Change, University of York  <b>Professor David Taylor-Robinson</b> , Health Equity North Academic Co-Director, University of Liverpool
10:50 – 11:10	Break
11:10 – 12:00  50 mins	<b>Opportunities for structural change and transformation: Challenges and solutions</b>  Chairs: <b>Baroness Longfield and Rachel Sylvester</b>  <u>Panellists:</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Sarah Cattan</b>, A Fairer Start Mission Director, Nesta</li> <li>- <b>Councillor Jon Hubbard</b>, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, Wiltshire Council</li> <li>- <b>Charlotte Ramsden</b>, CEO, Bradford Children and Family Trust</li> <li>- <b>Jonny Uttley</b>, CEO, Education Alliance.</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:10	<p><b>Opportunities for partnership between health and education: Delivering the healthiest generation of children</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Rachel Sylvester</b></p> <p><b>Professor Steve Turner</b>, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health</p>
12:10 – 13:00	<p><b>Health and education strategic partnerships to drive wellbeing and life chances</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Rachel Sylvester</b></p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Michelle Carrington</b>, Deputy Executive Nurse/Director of Nursing Health and Care Integration, Humber &amp; North Yorkshire ICB</li> <li>- <b>Pepe Di'lasio</b>, General Secretary, Association of School of College Leaders</li> <li>- <b>Maryam Kapree</b>, CHORAL Young Person Representative</li> <li>- <b>Dame Christine Lenahan DBE</b>, Strategic Advisor on SEND, Department for Education</li> <li>- <b>Julie Longworth</b>, Director of Children and Families, Leeds City Council</li> <li>- <b>Professor Steve Turner</b>, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health</li> </ul>
13:00 – 13:55	Lunch
13:40 – 14:00	Performance from Bradford Choir to provide choral interlude dedicated to Simon James (optional)
14:00 – 14:50	<p><b>Child of the North: Creating a country that works for all children and young people: What the evidence tells us.</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Professor Matthew Grenby</b>, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle University</p> <p><u>Presenters include:</u></p> <p><b>Dr Charmele Ayadurai</b>, Assistant Professor of Finance, Durham University Business School</p> <p><b>Professor Caroline Bond</b>, Professor of Educational Psychology, University of Manchester</p> <p><b>Dr Eleanor Bryant</b>, Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Bradford</p>

	<p><b>Professor Andrew Daly-Smith</b>, Professor of Physical Activity &amp; Child Health, University of Bradford</p> <p><b>Professor Peter Day</b>, Professor of Children's Oral Health, University of Leeds</p> <p><b>Professor Sarah Howard</b>, Professor of Digital Education, University of Leeds</p> <p><b>Professor Neil Humphrey</b>, Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing Report Lead, University of Manchester</p> <p><b>Professor Zoe Marshman</b>, Professor in Dental Public Health, University of Sheffield</p> <p><b>Professor Mark Mon-Williams</b>, Chair in Cognitive Psychology, University of Leeds</p> <p><b>Professor Faisal Mushtaq</b>, Professor of Cognitive Science, University of Leeds</p> <p><b>Professor Uta Papen</b>, Professor of Literacy Studies, Lancaster University</p> <p><b>Professor Liz Todd OBE</b>, Professor of Education Inclusion, Newcastle University</p> <p><b>Professor Ruth Wadman</b>, Associate Professor in Children and Young People's Mental Health, University of Bradford</p>
14:50 – 15:10	Break
15:10 – 16:00	<p><b>Delivering impact for children and families</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Baroness Anne Longfield</b></p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Anne-Marie Canning MBE</b>, CEO, The Brilliant Club</li> <li>- <b>Dr Jo Casebourne</b>, Chief Executive, Foundations – What Works Centre for Children &amp; Families</li> <li>- <b>Dr Camilla Kingdon</b>, Non-Executive Director, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children</li> <li>- <b>Professor John Wright</b>, Director of Research, Bradford Institute of Health Research</li> <li>- <b>Stian Westlake</b>, CEO, Economic and Social Research Council</li> <li>- <b>Kathryn Loftus</b>, Director, Education Alliance for Life Chances</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:10	<p><b>Young people's perspective</b></p> <p><b>Sophie Balmer</b>, CHORAL Young Person Representative</p>
16:10 – 16:30	<p><b>Concluding plenary</b></p> <p><b>Baroness Anne Longfield</b> to close conference</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Networking session. Refreshments available on ground floor</b>
17:00	<b>Ends</b>