



Think Ahead presents: Mental health social work in 2021

This conference offers a rare opportunity to focus on the important role frontline mental health social workers play in driving and responding to change.

Through a mixture of expert panels, Q&As and workshops covering the latest research in the field, attendees will hear balanced and honest views about the pressures and opportunities facing the system in 2021. Please see below for details of our speakers.

9:30 – 9:45

Welcome

Speakers



Ella Joseph

Chief Executive of Think Ahead

Ella has led Think Ahead since it was founded in 2014. She brings over 10 years senior leadership experience across a number of Whitehall departments, managing large teams and complex projects in key areas of social policy and education. Most recently, Ella led the government's work on special educational needs and on children's health and wellbeing. She is passionate about giving adult mental health the level of interest, innovation, and support it deserves.



Dr Ruth Allen

Chief Executive of the British Association of Social Workers

Ruth is Chief Executive of the British Association of Social Workers and has been a qualified social worker since 1994. Ruth was formerly Director of Social Work for South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust and Research Fellow at St George's University of London. She is Chair of the national Social Care Strategic Network for mental health and an advisor to the Chief Social Worker for adults. Ruth is currently working with the Department of Health on the 'Social Work for Better Mental Health' initiative, and she is a spokesperson for social work and social care in a variety of other forums.

9:45 – 10:30

How is mental health social work changing in response to covid-19 and digital innovation?

Chaired by



Professor Martin Webber

Professor of Social Work

Martin is the Professional Lead for Social Work at the University of York. His research focuses on the development and evaluation of social interventions to improve mental health. He is passionate about the development of a mental health social work workforce that is confident, skilled and clear about its role.

Speakers



Mark Trewin

Mental Health Social Work Lead, Dept. of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

Mark is the Mental Health Social Work Lead at the DHSC, working in the office of the Chief Social Worker. He also provides advice and support on mental health social work for NHS England, Health Education England and other Government departments. Mark was on the working group of the Mental Health Act Review and was part of the Centre for Mental Health Equalities Commission.

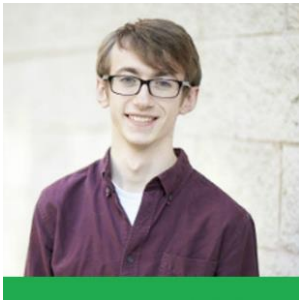
Mark has trained as an approved social worker and worked as a mental health social worker, a forensic social worker, a trainer in health and social care and a manager in supported housing. For many years he was the senior manager for mental health at Bradford Council, working with a range of agencies across a mental health partnership.



Jan-Michael McIntosh

Chief Executive of knack/Mental Health Social Worker

Jan has worked in Health & Social Care since 2012, holding a broad range of roles in frontline statutory services, private providers and the Department of Health & Social Care. He was part of Cohort 2 (2017-2019) of the Think Ahead Programme where he worked at South London & the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. In 2019, he and two other social workers from the programme set up a social venture (now known as 'knack' - a wellbeing focused craft subscription box with a monthly interactive workshop) which received start-up funding from Bethnal Green Ventures, Europe's leading tech-for-good investor. He now splits his time between running knack and a Local Authority Social Work role.



Arnold Thornton-Rice

Mental Health Social Worker

Arnold is a Think Ahead alumnus currently working in Coventry's Early Intervention Team. He is seeking publication for his research on social work, privacy and social media, which explores how practitioners are dealing with the new ethical challenges posed by an increasingly digital world.



Hameed Khan

Member of Think Ahead's Service User and Carer Reference Group and Expert by experience

Hameed is an ex-service user of mental health services and a carer for his mother who has physical and mental health issues. He has worked in the health and social care field for over 15 years and has teaching experience in Further Education Colleges.

10:30 – 11:15

How do we achieve anti-racist practice in mental health social work?

Chaired by



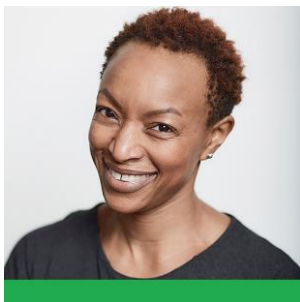
Cherie Carlton

BA (Hons) Social Sciences, PG Dip Social Work, PG Cert Personality Disorder, PG Cert HE MSc Addiction Studies (FHEA)

Cherie is a Senior lecturer (in practice) Social Work at Middlesex University. She has twenty years' experience of social work practice having worked in the UK and Australia. Her practice background spans across adult mental health, addictions, and child and family social work. She is a member of an independent fostering panel and continues to undertake independent social work assessments.

Cherie's main teaching interests include mental health and addictions, trauma-informed practices, child and family social work, social work theory, skills and readiness for practice and research methods.

Speakers



Jacqui Bell

Lead Practice Specialist at Think Ahead

Jacqui has over 25 years' experience of social work and has worked as a frontline social work practitioner, and a senior manager in multi-disciplinary community mental health services in east and central London. She trained as an AMHP/Practice Educator and worked with a range of adults experiencing complex mental health needs.

She joined Think Ahead 5 years ago and at the same time took up a role of independent vice chair of a Fostering and Adoption Panel. As Lead Practice Specialist, she works with the Think Ahead programme team to ensure Think Ahead participants receive quality placement experiences, whilst also

supporting local authority and NHS mental health trust partnerships to train and develop their social work workforce.



Karen Linde

Social Work for Better Mental Health Lead and Social Care Workforce Race Equality Standard Project Team

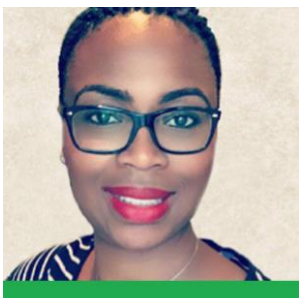
Karen has had a strong commitment to research near to practice, especially in the area of trauma informed and collaborative practice. She leads the Social Work for Better Mental health improvement programme which is supporting the transformation of services toward more socially informed and social justice approaches. She is also part of the national team implementing the Social Care Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES) to embed anti-racist cultures across the sector. Read about WRES and respecting diversity in social care in a blog. <https://bit.ly/3sL979s>



LaReo Riviere

Senior Social Worker, AMHP and Best Interests Assessor

LaReo is an advanced Mental Health Practitioner who has over 20 years' experience in delivering and managing front line mental health services. LaReo has completed postgraduate training in different Social Sciences and has retained an academic interest in the intersection of Race, Culture and Mental Health over many years. LaReo has been a regular contributor to the Bournemouth University, London AMHP/BIA programme, has been a Teaching Consultant at Goldsmiths College Social Work Department and is an Independent Trainer.



Renée Aleong

PhD student in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of York

Renée's PhD research explores the compulsory detention of Black service users under the Mental Health Act 1983. She gained extensive experience working within the Ministry of Justice and the Nursery and Midwifery Council prior to undertaking her BA in Social Work and MA in Social Research at the University of York. She is now in the second year of her Council scholarship. Read Renée's blog entry on making Black mental health matter here <https://bit.ly/385RN7o>

11:35 – 12:30

Overcoming cultural barriers in mental health social work

Facilitators



Kuldip Kaur Kang

Mental Health Social Worker

Kuldip is a Mental Health Social Worker and member of the first Think Ahead cohort. For her MA Social Work Practice she researched experiences of inpatient staff meeting the religious and cultural needs of BAME informal patients and patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. The research was subsequently published in the peer-reviewed Mental Health Review Journal, the abstract can be read here <https://bit.ly/385JW9K>. Prior to social work, Kuldip has had experience of working in policy and grant making organisations. She is passionate about mental health social work making a tangible impact through practice, policy and research.



Moramay Nunez-Trejos

Member of Think Ahead's Service User and Carer Reference Group and Expert by experience

Moramay is an expert by experience with Think Ahead's service user and carer reference group. She is also involved in various NHS reviews for the improvement of service provision, integrated care systems and promotion of best practice.

With professional as well as personal experience of Mental Health Service provision, she is a strong advocate for improvement through co-production underpinned by inclusion with added value to provider and recovery.

11:35 – 12:30

Everyday co-production in multi-disciplinary work

Facilitators



Ali Gardner

Director of Head, Heart, Hands in Practice

Ali started her career as a social worker with adults before becoming a social work lecturer in universities in the North West of England. She recently started an organisation which supports students, social and health care practitioners and organisations in developing practice and leadership in a number of areas including legal and ethical literacy, relational practice, safeguarding and social pedagogy. She is passionate about ensuring relationships are placed at the centre of any work with individuals, teams and across organisations and has published journal articles and books that reflect this approach.



Rebecca Regler

Member of Think Ahead's Service User and Carer Reference Group and Expert by experience

Rebecca studied Social Work at undergraduate level and is now studying a part time MSc in Mental Health Recovery and Social Inclusion. She is an expert by experience with Think Ahead's service user and carer reference group. She has a keen interest in the application of theory to practice and using the principles of co-production to promote positive change.