



Welcome to the Children's Quarter Conference 2024

# Who Cares?

a conference for those who do

Friday 18 October 9.30-12.30pm at Moseley Road School of Art, Birmingham B12 9AH

## Our Guest Speaker:



**Jess Phillips MP**  
MP for Yardley and  
Minister for  
safeguarding and  
violence against  
women and girls.

## Agenda

- 9.30** **ARRIVE** for stalls and refreshment before 10am start
- 10** **WELCOME and Guest Speaker**  
Jess Phillips MP
- 10.30 Short Sessions on:**  
**Inclusive Childcare** led by Laura Watts  
**Adventure in Inclusion** led by Clair Meares  
**18+ SEND** led by Carol Reid  
**Fit for All** led by Mariyam Akhter  
**Short Breaks** led by Simbi Folarin
- 12noon STAY for lunch, stalls and networking**

## How to get there

**Moseley Community Hub is in the old School of Art building on Moseley Rd (A435) in Balsall Heath.** Please access the building by the back entrance (off Lime Grove and via the car park). If you're early and driving you may park in the small on-site car park. Otherwise, park on Clifton Road or Edward Road. Trains: travel to New Street or Moor Street and get a cab or 50 bus from Selfridges. If you're on the bus, the 50 stops at Moseley Road Baths which is a 1 minute walk. You will need to go to the back of the building (via Lime Grove) to get in. The hall is on a level surface from the back entrance where there is a ramp.



Childrens Quarter is a coop registered as a non-profit company at Companies House. Our registered office is at All Saints Centre, Vicarage Rd Birmingham B14 7RA

# Who's up for some conversation?

**Inclusive Childcare** is childcare that includes families of children with SEND. Community provision is a cost-effective way of providing it. But most funding can't be used for childcare. We want the new Wraparound Childcare funding to support Inclusive Childcare.

**Laura Watts** of Children's Quarter and Parks for Play on the human, social and economic case for Inclusive Childcare and how the longstanding need for it could now start to be met by community providers using Wraparound Childcare.



**Adventures in Inclusion** is research funded to learn from CQ's cooperative project at Meriden Adventure Playground. It showed how children even with complex needs can benefit from adventurous play.

**Clair Meares** of Meriden Adventure Playground on how co-operative working between community groups provides health and development benefits for SEND children and young people through adventurous play.



There's a real issue around support for **SEND young people** when they get to 18. Community providers make 'Third Places' (away from home and college) which young people could be using to explore and expand the opportunities available to them for gainful activity, work, housing, health and life.

**Carol Reid** of Access to Heritage, Arts and Culture (ATHAC) on continuing to support young disabled people after they are 18.



[childrensquarter.org](http://childrensquarter.org)

# honest words and



**Mariyam Akhter** Our Special Angels on how the Fit for All project enables parent-led and community groups to make more of Holiday Activity & Food Fund including support for children with complex needs and their families.

**Fit for All** is the Childrens Quarter project providing healthy meals and inclusive activities for children 5-16 in Birmingham and Solihull during school holidays. We look at what the future holds for it and the Holiday Activity & Food Fund on which it relies.



**Simbi Folarin** of Seven Up talking about the lessons from Short Breaks community provision including how continuity and customisation create better choices for disabled children.

**Short Breaks** is the statutory service offering opportunities to disabled children and respite care to families. Community providers use the funding to innovate customised and effective services. The service is being re-commissioned in Birmingham. We want to make sure parents and the community sector aren't squeezed out.

## Thanks to Parents and Carers

**All of the sessions at Who Cares? include parents/carers speaking about their experience and priorities and we'll also be hearing from community providers set up by parents/carers working cooperatively.** If you are a parent or a carer of a disabled child, your time is at a premium and we really appreciate it. Because life can be unpredictable, we can't list parent/carer speakers as easily as we can the speakers shown above (although some of the speakers are also parents/carers of SEND children) - which is the only reason more aren't shown above.

This year, for the first time, Childrens Quarter's Fit for All project - which provides healthy meals and activities for vulnerable and disabled children during the school holidays - included Birmingham Parent Carer Forum and we have guests at the event from Parent Carer Forums in the West Midlands. Thank you for your time and for sharing. We appreciate it.

# Action!

Please use this space to consider/list the action you want to take after taking part in Who Cares. Here are our starters for ten:

**Share** the event on Social Media using **#WhoCares24** The WIFI code on the day is **Username: MchCoworkers Password: CommunityHub**

**Lobby** Chancellor Rachel Reeves for more investment in SEND services in her budget on 30 October **rachel.reeves.mp@parliament.uk**

**Join** Childrens Quarter as a Member (if you're a group or organisation) or as an Associate (if you're an individual)  
**email: membership@childrensquarter.org**

**Support** Birmingham Parent Carer Forum  
**<https://www.birminghampcf.org>**

**Take part** in Birmingham's parent survey on Wraparound Childcare  
**<https://bit.ly/3NqICT4>**

**Get informed** copies of briefings from Children's Quarter on subjects including HAF, Youth Hubs and the Gear Up service for parents/carers and community providers - **email: campaigns@childrensquarter.org**

**ACTION POINTS** (record yours - if we can help, please get in touch)

**mail: [development@childrensquarter.org](mailto:development@childrensquarter.org)**

