

The story so far...

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Keynote for Devon County Council
Conference

18th March 2024



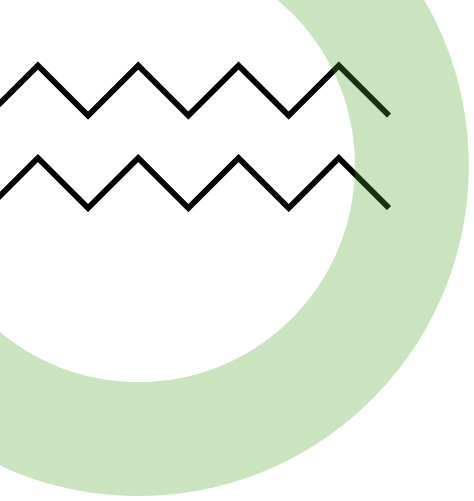


1983...

- Margaret Thatcher wins her second term with 142 majority (42%)
- Culture Club's "Karma Chameleon" is the best-selling single: The Flying Pickets have the Christmas No.1
- The 12-sided one-pound coin arrives: it buys a pint or two loaves of bread (with change) or 2.7 litres of diesel
- Cabbage Patch Dolls and Star Wars are the most popular toys
- Manchester United won the FA Cup in a replay

...2024, seven themes on a page

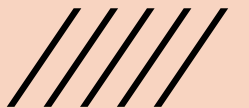


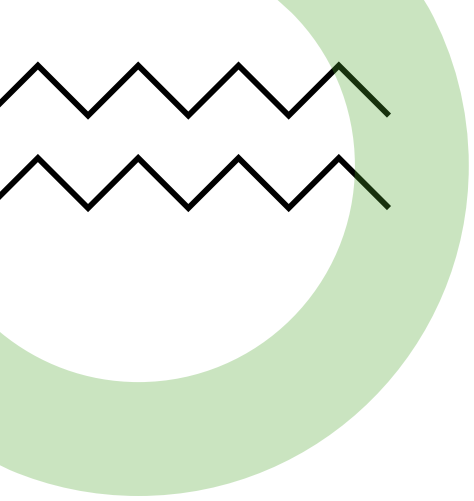


Using Research

- Matching Needs and Services
- Decision making in children's care – who gets care and doesn't?
- Understanding variation in services
- Curiosity

- See: RiPFA, SCIE





Fear

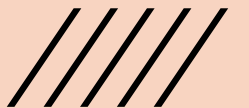
- From the fear of the workhouse to the fear of needing care
- “The crisis of care in the UK did not just happen. It was made.” (Danny Dorling)

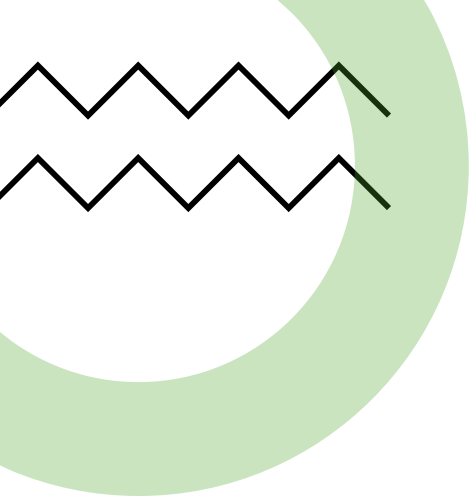




The asylum

- From hidden in plain sight to hidden?
- The power of labels
- See: University of Birmingham “Why are we still stuck in hospital?”(2023)
- Watch: Kassiba’s story





People at the centre

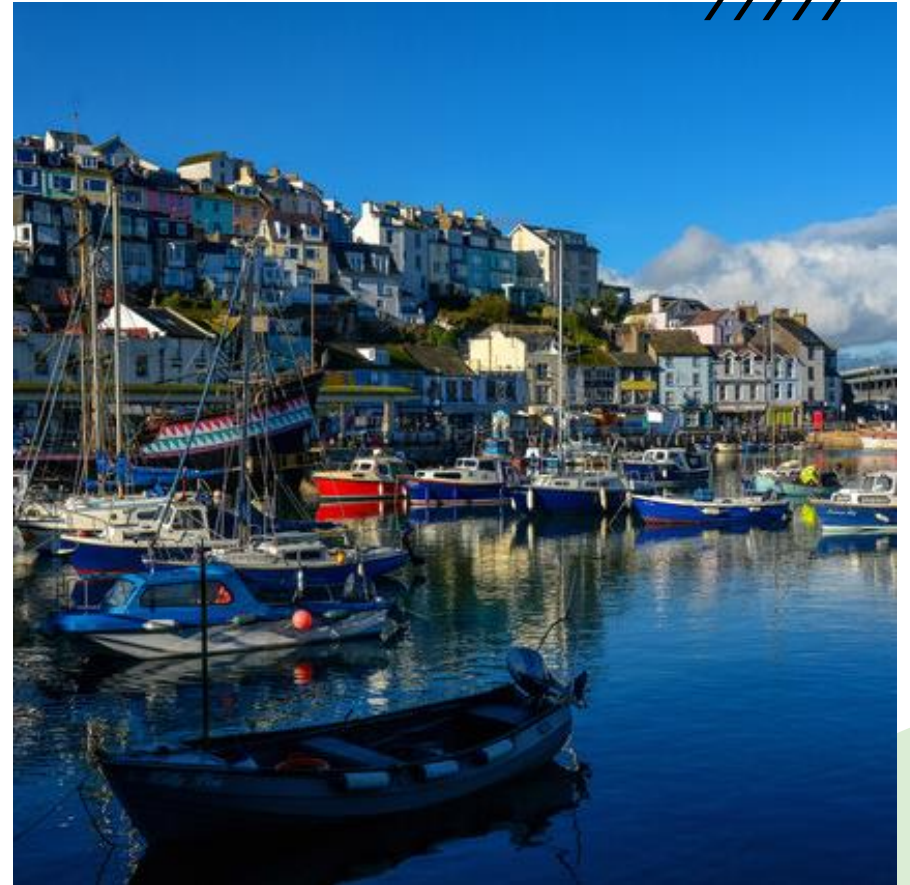
- Gloriously ordinary lives and positive risk-taking
- “We all want to live in a place we call home with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for one another and do the things that matter to us.”

See: [#socialcarefutures](#)



The role of place

Social work across all the systems we live in, not just a care and health system



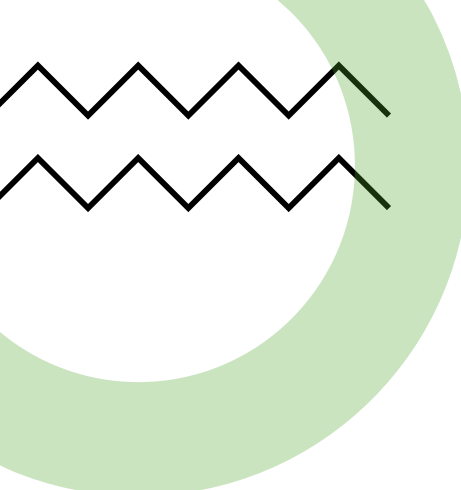


Assurance

- Quality assurance and accountability
- Professionalism and managerialism
- Diversity and inclusion
- The “ordinary concepts of humanity, empathy and decency” (Justice Munby)

- See: LGA Making Safeguarding Personal toolkit
- TLAP’s We and I statements
- Local account





The power of great social work

“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility, and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities, and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance well-being.”

