

Welcome to the Westmorland and Furness Staff Conference and Expo

Tuesday 10 June 2025 - 10:00am – 4:30pm - Kendal Town Hall & Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal (Just a short walk between venues)

We're excited to bring you a day full of inspiring sessions, engaging activities, and brilliant opportunities to connect - there's truly something for everyone! To help you make the most of this unmissable event, we've made planning simple. **Browse the timetable of bookable sessions** below and **secure your place** in advance - spaces are limited!

* New for 2025
– Frontline focus forum! (Malt Room, Brewery) - This year following feedback from staff we have introduced a frontline focus forum for those of you on the frontline! After speaking to staff, the first three sessions in the Malt Room were identified as a priority.

	Brewery Arts					Kendal Town Hall									
Timings	Malt Room	Theatre	Screen 1	Screen 2	Warehouse	Car Park	Assembly Room	Georgian Room							
10am	It's good to talk! making time for connection and conversation	AI digital smbition and AI & automation: Making your work easier	Emergency Planning – Kirkby Lonsdale	A safe space in a new place: Finding homes for refugee children	Activation bands: Taster session!	The Virtual Dementia Tour	The Autism Experience	Listening staff voice session with Sam Plum and the wider leadership team	Tour the Mayors Parlour						
10.15am															
10.30am															
10.45am															
11am			ICT – What to expect in 2025/26	Shared Lives: Join us to hear all about how shared lives is changing lives for the better	Music and movement session			Explore our Ways of Working - Doing it the W&F Way		The power of 5S: Transform your workplace					
11.15am	Abuse at work is not ok!	Care leavers and being a corporate parent													
11.30am															
11.45am				Together we can... help people stay well and return home sooner – Intermediate Care Bed Unit											
12pm			Community Power: What's in a name	Activation bands: Taster session!						Telling our story through data...					
12.15pm	Wicked weather – what does the future hold for us	Future of work: The role of Inclusion & Innovation													
12.30pm				Being part of a successful Council - Good governance						Finding balance: Making time for what matters most!					
12.45pm				Welcome to work tourism	Music and movement session										
1pm															
1.15pm	Listening staff voice session with Sam Plum and the wider leadership team	AI digital smbition and AI & automation: Making your work easier	Building connections and breaking down barriers!	Green Libraries Project - Embedding green into our libraries future	Activation bands: Taster session!					Explore our Ways of Working - Doing it the W&F Way	Become a Dementia Friend: Join our workshop to find out how				
1.30pm															
1.45pm															
2pm			Welcome to the future world of work...	Our journey to net zero	Carers supporting carers: Mockingbird in Cumbria			Shared Lives: Join us to hear all about how shared lives is changing lives for the better			Music and movement session				
2.15pm															
2.30pm															
2.45pm															
3pm					Activation bands: Taster session!			Explore our Ways of Working - Doing it the W&F Way							
3.15pm															
3.30pm															
3.45pm															
4pm					Activation bands: Taster session!	Explore our Ways of Working - Doing it the W&F Way									
4.15pm															
4.30pm															
Close															

Malt Room – Brewery Arts

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1000-1100	It's good to talk! Making time for connection and conversation	We're delighted to welcome Steve and Chris from Men in Sheds for a powerful and uplifting session all about the importance of connection, conversation, and community. Although Men in Sheds was originally created to support men, this session is for everyone – because we all benefit from talking, listening, and sharing. Steve and Chris will speak from personal experience, shedding light on how Men in Sheds has helped people navigate difficult times, combat loneliness, and build meaningful relationships. Come along to hear practical tips, real-life stories, and simple ways to boost your wellbeing and strengthen your sense of connection in everyday life.	Book here for: It's good to talk!
1115-1200	Abuse at work is not ok!	<p>Unfortunately, abuse towards frontline workers is on the rise – affecting everyone from customer service staff and waste teams to social workers and parking attendants.</p> <p>At W&F, we take a zero-tolerance approach to this behaviour. We want to open up the conversation about what more we can do to address this growing issue and better protect our public sector staff.</p> <p>We'll be joined by Sam Plum, CEO, who is keen to hear directly from you about your experiences and explore how the council can provide stronger support and protection for those on the frontline.</p> <p>Let's work together to create a safer, more respectful environment for all.</p>	Book here for: Abuse at work is not ok!
1215-1300	Wicked Weather – what does the future hold for us	<p>What does the weather have in store for us by 2050 - and how can we better prepare for increasingly extreme conditions?</p> <p>In 2023/24 alone, there were 12 named storms—the highest number since storm naming began in 2015. And the trend shows no signs of slowing.</p> <p>Join us for a thought-provoking and interactive session, including a live weather forecast for the year 2050. Discover what the future could really look like and explore the steps we need to take now to adapt and build resilience in the face of climate change.</p>	Book here for: Wicked Weather
1315-1415	Listening to You: Staff Voice Session with the Chief Executive	Join Sam Plum, Chief Executive, and members of our Corporate Management Team for an open and inspiring staff listening session! This is your chance to share your thoughts, ask questions, and be part of the conversation that shapes our organisation's future.	Book here for: Listening to you

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1430-1530	Welcome to the future world of work...	<p>Join us for a fun, interactive, and thought-provoking session led by our talented apprentices, as they share their vision of the future world of work—and what it could mean for Westmorland and Furness Council.</p> <p>This is a unique opportunity to see the world through the eyes of our future leaders. Hear first-hand how they view the workplace today, what they imagine for tomorrow, and what we need to do as a council to attract and retain talent.</p> <p>The session includes engaging activities, a futuristic video, and a live Q&A with Gen Z. Don't miss this chance to shape the future—together.</p>	Book here for: Welcome to the future world of work

Theatre – Brewery Arts

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1000-1100	The Big Digital Debate	<p>Everything you ever wanted to know about Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Automation You've heard the buzz around Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Automation — now come and discover what it's really all about!</p> <p>Join us to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding IA and AI — and what makes them different • The real opportunities AI brings to your work and daily life • The importance of safe and ethical AI adoption • Busting common myths and misconceptions • Tips for using free tools like Copilot Web to boost your personal productivity <p>Whether you're curious, cautious, or already experimenting with AI, there's something here for everyone. Come to our sessions and chat with us to see how digital innovation can help you work smarter.</p> <p>So why not book a place now and come visit the Digital Innovation Team at the Staff Expo. We'd love to talk to you about AI.</p>	Book here for: The Big Digital Debate



Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1115-1200	Care Leavers and being a corporate parent	<p>What you do every day - whether in highways, transport, procurement, or any other service—makes a real difference to the lives of children in our area, especially those in our care.</p> <p>At W&F, we're all corporate parents, and that means each of us has a role to play in supporting and caring for these children.</p> <p>This interactive session will show you how you can join the team and become a children's superhero - helping to make a positive impact every single day. Come along, share your ideas, and discover how we can work together to support our children and young people as an organisation. Be part of something truly special.</p>	Book here for: Care Leavers and being a corporate parent
1230-1330	Future of Work: The Role of Inclusion & Innovation	<p>A panel discussion on how diverse teams drive creativity and problem-solving, and help shape better decision-making and business success. Discussing questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How beneficial is it to have a workforce that reflects the communities we work with? • What is the difference between diversity of people and diversity of thought? • What role does inclusive leadership play in preparing for the future of work? • What are some common barriers to creating truly inclusive, innovative teams—and how can they be overcome? • How do we ensure underrepresented voices are not just included but are also influencing key decisions? <p>Featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Hooper (Host) – Corporate EDI Advisor • Cllr Helen Chaffey - Cabinet Member for Community Services • Luci Robb - Assistant Director of HR/OD • Aftab Khan - Senior Emergency Planning Officer, and Chair of W&F Race Equality Staff Network Group • Donna St Claire - Senior Manager, Adult Learning and Global Resettlement Team 	Book here for: Future of Work - The role of inclusion & innovation

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1345-1445	The Big Digital Debate	<p>Everything you ever wanted to know about Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Automation You've heard the buzz around Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Automation — now come and discover what it's really all about!</p> <p>Join us to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding IA and AI — and what makes them different • The real opportunities AI brings to your work and daily life • The importance of safe and ethical AI adoption • Busting common myths and misconceptions • Tips for using free tools like Copilot Web to boost your personal productivity <p>Whether you're curious, cautious, or already experimenting with AI, there's something here for everyone. Come to our sessions and chat with us to see how digital innovation can help you work smarter.</p> <p>So why not book a place now and come visit the Digital Innovation Team at the Staff Expo. We'd love to talk to you about AI.</p>	Book here for: The Big Digital Debate
1500-1600	Our Journey to Net Zero	<p>This is your opportunity to find out more about our award-winning strategies to tackle carbon emissions in Westmorland and Furness and become net zero by 2037. You'll hear about the progress during the first year of our five-year plan, learning more about the innovative projects we have achieved so far, as part of a £26m capital investment to make our buildings and services more sustainable and biodiverse by working with partners and local communities to rethink our approach to carbon management.</p>	Book here for: Our journey to net zero

Screen 1 – Brewery Arts

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1000-1045	Behind the Scenes - Kirkby Lonsdale Fire	<p>Have you ever wondered what happens when an emergency strikes? Who gets involved and how do we support those affected? In late 2024, Kirkby Lonsdale suffered an horrific fire that ripped through the town centre and sadly took the life of one local resident. The Joint Emergency Management & Resilience (JEMR) Team take us 'behind the scenes' to tell us about the pre-planning, response and support systems used to keep Kirkby Lonsdale safe, get back open for business and how you can help support future incidents.</p>	Book here for: Behind the scenes - Kirkby Lonsdale Fire
1100-1145	ICT – What to expect in 2025/26	<p>ICT is core to running our services and developing them for the future. Join this session to hear from Stefan Sabuda, Assistant Director for ICT, and Paul Robinson, Director of Enabler Services, to hear more about what's planned for the year ahead and the investment in time and resources to build a comprehensive programme of work that meets the council's priorities.</p>	Book here for: ICT – What to expect in 2025/26

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1200-1245	Community Power: What's in a name	Community Power: What's in a name Have you heard the term Community Power – we hope so, this is about how we work here at the council, placing communities at the heart of local decision making, so that they are able to shape the places they live and the services that affect their lives – moving us towards a community focused council. Come and explore with us what this means for the services you work in and deliver.	Book here for: Community Power
1300-1345	Welcome to work tourism	Westmorland & Furness Council and Cumbria Tourism have partnered to deliver Welcome to Work in the Visitor Economy, an innovative and needs-led project to tackle the acute issues of high rates of economic inactivity and poor employment outcomes among pockets of our local communities and significant staff shortages in our world-famous tourism sector. To date the project has worked with over 300 people seeking employment and supported 109 into work in our local visitor economy. This approach, involving a range of other public and third sector partners and local businesses, is making a real difference to our communities and economy. If you are interested in innovative and inclusive ways to tackle recruitment issues, then this workshop is for you.	Book here for: Welcome to work tourism
1400-1445	Building connections and breaking down barriers!	If you are involved in carrying out research in the council – then this is the workshop for you! It's a chance for anyone in the council who is involved in research to get together and talk about how we can all put research at the heart of our decision making and service improvement. The workshop will share with you examples of how we can deliver better outcomes as a result of effective research and our speaker will share with you case studies showing how research has driven real change and made people's lives better. Join us to find out the secrets of success and how you can access support with any research work you are planning - as well as being part of a wider team helping W&F join up all of our research activity for the benefit of our staff, residents and partners.	Book here for: Building connections and breaking down barriers
1500-1530	Carers supporting carers: Mockingbird in Cumbria	Our Westmorland & Furness Mockingbird liaison worker, Jayne McGarry, introduces a short film about the Mockingbird Model of Foster Care — a pioneering approach that launched in Cumbria last year. Led by The Fostering Network, Mockingbird is built on the idea of extended family. It brings together a 'constellation' of 6 to 10 fostering families living nearby, all supported by a 'hub home' carer - someone who offers extra guidance, support, and a sense of community, much like a grandparent would. In our short film, carers and team members from our first constellation in Cumbria talk about their experiences with Mockingbird and the benefits it brings to everyone involved. Jayne will also give an update on our first Mockingbird constellation in Westmorland & Furness; talking about how things are going six months in, what they've learned, and how this model is already making a difference.	Book here for: Carers supporting carers: Mockingbird in Cumbria



Screen 2 – Brewery Arts

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1000-1030	A Safe Space in a New Place: Finding homes for Refugee children	<p>This year Cumbria Fostering, working on behalf of Westmorland & Furness Council, has been collaborating with the North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) to support their campaign, A Safe Space in a New Place, which aims to find foster carers for refugee children arriving here without parents or family to look after them.</p> <p>Members of the team at RSMP will introduce a series of powerful short films featuring foster carers across the region who've opened their homes to separated children and young people who have experienced incredibly traumatic situations – fleeing from war, persecution, violence and civil unrest. Some have been trafficked, many exploited as they made their way here and as a result need carers who understand their individual emotional, cultural and practical needs. Following the film screenings, the team talk about the urgent need for foster carers for refugee children and provide information on how the campaign is helping to create safe, supportive homes in Westmorland & Furness and across the region.</p> <p>This session is particularly timely ahead of Refugee Week (June 16 to 22), during which Westmorland & Furness Council will be running an awareness campaign to highlight the needs of children and young people seeking sanctuary.</p>	Book here for: A Safe Space in a New Place
1045-1130 1445-1530	Shared Lives Join us to hear all about how shared lives is changing lives for the better	<p>Shared Lives is nationally recognised as one of the highest quality forms of social care. Offering a community-based alternative to traditional residential care. As we face the challenges of an aging population and increasing demand for more respite support we needed to attract more people to get involved.</p> <p>In October a campaign was launched to raise awareness and encourage new carers to join. Since the launch we've seen over 100 additional enquiries from people interested in becoming Shared Lives carers. A truly fantastic response that has helped strengthen the service and continue delivering outstanding care across Westmorland and Furness. It has been so successful that we now have more carers registered than those who currently need the support – we think this is a national first! And we have recently been held up as a national case study by the social care institute for excellence.</p> <p>Join this workshop to find out more about Shared lives and the power of a great marketing campaign, hear our success stories and get involved in some myth busting about the Shared Lives carer role.</p>	Book here for: Shared Lives



Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1145-1230	Together we can... help people stay well and return home sooner – Intermediate Care Bed Unit	<p>Together we can... help people stay well and return home sooner – Intermediate Care Bed Unit</p> <p>An inspiring story of care, collaboration, and independence.</p> <p>Discover how an Intermediate Care Bed Unit at Parkview Gardens, Barrow, is making a real difference to people's lives.</p> <p>In this short video screening, learn how an innovative partnership between Westmorland and Furness Council, NHS Lancashire and Cumbria Integrated Care Board, and University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust is helping people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return home sooner following a hospital stay, with the support they need to regain independence • Avoid unnecessary hospital admissions by receiving the right care in a more appropriate setting • Access therapy in a comfortable, residential environment that prepares them for life back at home • Benefit from improved patient flow across the health and care system, with hospital beds freed up for emergency and elective care • This is a fantastic example of real collaboration in action – take a look inside the Intermediate Care Bed Unit and hear from the dedicated team making it happen. 	Book here for: Together we can... help people stay well and return home sooner - Intermediate Care Bed Unit
1245-1330	Being part of a successful Council - Good Governance	Join us for a session explaining how each and every employee and elected member can play a vital part in the success of the Council. Good governance, and effective decision making is key to our success. In this session we will outline what is meant by 'governance' and also share some case studies of other areas where there have been successes and some where poor governance has negatively impacted Council and its reputation.	Book here for: Being part of a successful Council - Good Governance
1345-1430	Green Libraries Project - Embedding Green into our Libraries future.	<p>Join us to explore how the library service is leading the way in sustainability through the Green Libraries Project—a model of change shaped in partnership with our communities.</p> <p>In this session, we'll share the story of how the project began, how we're working collaboratively, and the steps we're taking to embed green thinking into everything we do. From our Go Green collections to events, projects, and partnerships, discover how libraries are evolving to support a more sustainable future for all.</p> <p>Be inspired by what's possible when community, creativity, and climate action come together.</p>	Book here for: Green Libraries Project



Warehouse – Brewery Arts

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1000-1045 1200-1245 1400-1445 1600-1630	Activation Bands – Taster Session!	Get ready to experience strength training like never before with the Activation Bands – Taster Session! This exciting, all-abilities class introduces you to the power of resistance bands to ignite your muscles in a brand new way, activating those often-overlooked areas to boost strength, control, and body awareness. Whether you're a total beginner or a seasoned mover, this session is designed to meet you where you are. Led by the dynamic and inspiring Roo Bannister , it's the perfect chance to explore something fresh, fun, and seriously effective. Come feel the burn – and the buzz!	Book here for: Activation Bands Taster Session
1100-1145 1300-1345 1500-1545	Music and Movement session	We spend a lot of time sitting in front of screens on our own doing important work. So we are inviting you to come and do the opposite with some movement and music at the Expo event. Time for fun, joy and connection is important for our health and wellbeing, as is getting to know our colleagues via a shared activity. No steps, choreography or rules involved. Just a chance to move and groove. Laughter is guaranteed. You do what is right for you and comfortable. If you're open minded and curious then come along and try out a session. You might be pleasantly surprised and get to know some new people during the time.	Book here for: Music and movement session

Car Park – Brewery Arts

These sessions take place every 15 minutes throughout the day!

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1000-1630	Virtual Dementia Tour	Experience what it's like to live with dementia through immersive, hands-on scenarios in a specially designed mobile unit. As a caring council, we're proud to offer this opportunity to support both your professional and personal understanding. Please wear sensible footwear, no sandals / open-toe shoes.	Book here for: Virtual Dementia Tour



Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1000-1630	The Autism Experience	Experience what it's like to live with Autism through immersive, hands-on scenarios in a specially designed mobile unit. As a caring council, we're proud to offer this opportunity to support both your professional and personal understanding. Please wear sensible footwear, no sandals / open-toe shoes.	Book here for: The Autism Experience

Assembly Room - Kendal Town Hall

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1000-1045	Listening Staff Voice session with Sam Plum and the wider leadership team	Join Sam Plum, Chief Executive, and members of our Corporate Management Team for an open and inspiring staff listening session! This is your chance to share your thoughts, ask questions, and be part of the conversation that shapes our organisation's future.	Book here for: Listening Staff Voice session

Georgian Room - Kendal Town Hall

Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1100-1130	The Power of 5S: Transform your workplace	Discover how a few simple changes can make a big difference! Join this interactive and hands-on session where you'll experience how organising your workspace can boost efficiency, reduce stress, and create a better experience for both staff and customers.	Book here for: The Power of 5S: Transform your workplace
1145-1215	Telling our story through data...	Discover the power of our new Data & Insight Portal in this short, engaging session. We'll showcase how it helps us understand our communities and make informed decisions - then bring the data to life with a fun, Top Trumps-style game using real data from across W&F!	Book here for: Telling our story through data
1230-1300	Finding balance: Making time for what matters most!	Take control of your time with practical strategies to be more effective, reduce overwhelm and create space for what really matters at work and in life!	Book here for: Finding balance: Making time for what matters most
1315-1415	Become a Dementia Friend: Join our workshop to find out how	Want to make a real difference in your community? Join us for a Dementia Friends Information Session, a friendly and interactive workshop designed to increase awareness and understanding of dementia. By the end, you'll become a Dementia Friend—someone who understands dementia and is committed to helping create a more inclusive, supportive community	Book here for: Become a Dementia Friend



Timings	Title	Description	Booking Link
1430-1500	Wondering what “Doing it the W&F Way” really means in practice?	Join this workshop to explore our Target Operating Model—what it is (and isn’t) —through real-life scenarios and a fun challenge. You’ll discover how it guides the way we work across the council and how to make decisions that align with our W&F principles.	Book here for: Wondering what “Doing it the W&F Way” really means in practice

Don’t forget, we also have drop-in activities throughout the day!

Exhibition stands - Kendal Town Hall: Explore a vibrant range of stalls at **Kendal Town Hall**, hosted by colleagues and partners.

Hidden Treasures: The Mayor’s Parlour - Step inside one of Kendal Town Hall’s hidden gems – the Mayor’s Parlour. This small but fascinating room is rich in history, featuring historic artefacts.

Green Wheels & Safer Roads - Brewery Arts: Visit the **Brewery Arts Centre garden** to discover sustainable travel options, e-bike displays, live bike servicing, and road safety experiences using VR.

The Green Zone (Digital Lounge): Follow the (carbon) footprints to the **Digital Lounge**, a relaxing and interactive space where sustainability meets storytelling.

- Learn how we’re embedding ecological awareness across everything we do—from community-led initiatives to organisational change.
- Meet the **Local Nature Recovery Team**
- Explore opportunities like **Carbon Literacy** and **Carbon Fresk** training
- Share your ideas for a greener future

Sit back and be inspired by **real stories** from across Westmorland and Furness and what makes it a great place to live, work and thrive.