

## Year Ahead Conference 2026: The Future of Public Protection

### Programme Day One: Thursday 5 February

#### 09.30: Welcome and introduction

Chair: Fran McClosky, CEO, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

#### Transformation & Change

#### 09.35: English devolution in practice: cutting costs, building sustainable services

- What does financial sustainability look like in practice – beyond short-term savings?
- How can leaders align cost reduction with long-term service resilience?

Speaker: Simon Allsop, Managing Consultant, Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy

#### 10.15: Shifting and shaping local government: what does the future look like?

##### (Panel discussion)

- Discussing the English Devolution and Communities Empowerment Bill and local government restructure strategies
- Understanding the powers and how the new framework will work for all

Chair: Joanna Seymour, Head of EH Workforce, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

#### Speakers:

- Emma Foy, Local Government Lead, Technology One & Former Section 151 Officer, West Lindsey District Council
- Graeme McDonald, Chief Executive Officer, Solace
- Annie Albon, Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services Dartford Borough Council and Chair of the Association of Chief Environmental Health Officers

#### 11.10: Comfort break & sponsorship videos

## 11.35: Plan for change: balancing regulation for successful economic growth

- What can we expect from regulators in 2026?
- What do regulators need from Heads of Service, local government, and Heads of Trading Standards to deliver in 2026?
- How do we get the balance between economic growth and public protection right?

### Speakers:

- Katie Pettifer, Chief Executive Officer, Food Standards Agency (FSA)
- Jonathan Eatough, Deputy Director – Operations and Governance, The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS)
- David Perry, Legal Director, Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)

## 12.30: Harnessing digital innovations to enhance public services and protection

- AI strategies across Government – what does ‘responsible’ adoption look like?
- Case study examples where securing technology has reduced cost of delivering digital services
- Uncomfortable truths: managing misinformation

### Speakers:

- Dr Aaron Lawson, Course Director MSc Global Strategy in Environmental Health & Sustainability and Lecturer in Environmental Health, Ulster University
- Cenred Elworthy, CTSI Lead Officer for AI and Digital

## 13:00 Leading change from within: turning resistance into momentum

- Focusing on the practical role leaders play in shaping change through landscape, framing and behaviour
- Exploring how the words we use, the narratives we reinforce, and the structures we create can either entrench resistance or unlock engagement and trust

Speaker: Kendelle Bond, Clinical Director and Behavioural Psychologist & Member of MINT, The National Centre for Behaviour Change

## 13.40 Closing remarks

## 13.45 End of day one



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## Programme Day Two: Friday 6 February

### 09.30 Welcome and introduction

Chair: John Herriman, CEO, Chartered Trading Standards Institute

### Championing Public Protection

#### 09.35 Prevention by design: making public health central to change

- How can public health and prevention be embedded at the heart of policy, service design and regulatory decision-making?
- How can public health principles shape systems, partnerships, and leadership decision across local government and regulatory services?

Speakers:

- William Roberts, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
- Marie Brousseau-Navarro, Deputy Commissioner and Director for Health, Office of the Future Generations Commissioner
- James Armitage, Director of Public Protection, Regulatory Services Partnership (Serving the London Boroughs of Merton, Richmond upon Thames and Wandsworth)
- Fiona Inston, Public Health Associate at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Vice Chair of the Association of Chief Environmental Health Officers

#### 10.35: Raising the bar: improving housing conditions for all

- Renters Reform Act and 10-year Social and Affordable Homes Programme (SAHP)
- How will the SAHP programme operate in practice?
- How will it align with devolution and regional housing strategies?
- Discussion on grant allocations and delivery expectations
- What are the impacts of the Renters Rights Act?

Speakers:

- Chloe Fletcher, Head of Policy and External Affairs, Chartered Institute of Housing
- Alison Farrar, Project Lead, Operation Jigsaw
- Ian Workman, Chief National Officer, Homes England

#### 11.25: Comfort break & sponsorship videos



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## 11.55: People power – securing the future of our profession

- What are the structural challenges facing the workforce?
- How do we rethink how the profession attracts, develops and retains talent?

### Speakers:

- Jo Seymour, Head of EH Workforce, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
- Jessica Merryfield, Head of Policy & Campaigns, CTSI
- Valerie Simpson, Chair of ACTSO and Assistant Director of Environmental Health & Regulatory Services, Hammersmith & Fulham Council
- Annie Albon, Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services Dartford Borough Council and Chair of the Association of Chief Environmental Health Officers
- Welna Bowden, LGA
- Simon Wilkinson, Temporary Head of Regulatory and Frontline Services, Welsh Local Government Association

## 12.45: Local authority transformation in action: Case studies of impactful change

- How have local authorities demonstrated impactful change to the organisation, community and environment?
- In-depth focuses on specific case studies and examples of best practice

### Speakers:

#### Wakefield Primary Authority partnerships

- Helen Atkinson, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Wakefield Council

#### Driving Marmot Nation in Wales

- Stephen Vickers, Joint Chief Executive, Torfaen County Borough Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## 13:45 Closing remarks

Chair(s): Fran McCloskey, CEO, CIEH & John Herriman, CEO, CTSI

## 14.00 Conference ends