



Solace in the South

“Leading in the Age of a Perfect Storm”

23rd - 24th April 2020

Norton Park,
Near Winchester





Aim of the Conference

The theme of this year's event is 'The Perfect Storm'

We live in an era where pluralism of political views are increasing, with a reduction in the power of the two main political parties, a significant increase in the number of Councils with no overall control, and with central Government focussing elsewhere, what happens in the event of a potential political vacuum?

Allied to this is a rising tide of pressure groups seemingly opposed to everything, using social media, as a mechanism to forestall or influence decision making.

In the context of reducing level of understanding of local government and local democracy and our faith in our institutions – are we facing a 'perfect storm'?

Pre-Registration Session

Thursday 23rd April

Public Service Transformation Academy

Would you like to hear the latest thinking and insights into transformational change from the PSTA? Since our launch four years ago we've worked with over 100 public service organisations (including over 50 local authorities as well as the NHS, Police and Whitehall), supporting them to develop their transformational skills and capabilities. At this pre-event session we will explore the key learning and insights generated by our research and development work.

Key speakers will include Benjamin Taylor, Chief Executive, PSTA and Paul Conneely, Chief Operating Officer PSTA.

9:30	Arrival, registration and refreshments
10:00	Working in complexity
10:20	Key insights, learning highlights and examples
11:00	Culture as a complex adaptive system
11:40	Q&A
12:00	Session ends

**This event is free to attend. To register please email:
events@publicservicetransformation.org**

Please note that this event is a stand alone session, and does not form part of the core Solace in the South event programme.



Programme	
Thursday 23rd April	
12:30	Welcome lunch for new attendees/new to the region/new members
13:15	Registration, refreshments and networking
13:45	<p>Welcome and introduction to the seminar from Solace South</p> <p>Joint Chairs: Andy Ferrier, Corporate Director, Test Valley Borough Council Annie Righton, Executive Director, Interim and Consultant, Annie Righton Associates, currently Strategic Director, Waverley Borough Council</p>
13:50	Welcome from the sponsor, Curtain & Co.
14:00	<p>Pressure, atmosphere and vacuum – the basic law of political physics</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Carr West, Chief Executive LGIU</p>
14:45	<p>“Whatever happened to evidenced based policy? The challenge of establishing truth in a populist world”</p> <p>Speaker: Barry Quirk, Chief Executive, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea</p>
15:30	Refreshments and networking
16:00	<p>What are we dealing with next? The rise of social media and its impacts on society</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Nicola J Millard, BT</p>
17:00	<p>Improvement board View from the LGA and where political turmoil is happening</p> <p>Speaker: Cllr Peter Fleming, OBE Leader, Sevenoaks District Council and Chair, LGA</p>
17:45	End of day one
19:15	Pre-dinner drinks at Hush Heath Winery, followed by dinner at 20:15 (Please see the social events section for further details of the evening)

Friday 24th April

'Personal reflections on managing popularism/social media campaigns and challenging political environments'

For residential delegates only:
Breakfast from 07:00 and checkout by 11:00

9:00	<p>Welcome and introduction to day two</p> <p>Chair: Sophie Hosking, Chief Executive, South Hams District and West Devon Borough Council</p>
9:15	<p>Video link to Christchurch, New Zealand</p> <p>The view from Dawn Baxendale: From B to C – Reflections on her time Birmingham and the differences in Christchurch and the New Zealand system.</p>
10:00	<p>All change! Moving from six administrations to one</p> <p>Speaker: Matt Prosser, Chief Executive, Dorset Councils</p>
10:45	<p>Refreshments and networking</p>
11:15	<p>Understanding of local democracy and local government is at an all time low but quixotically, people expectations that local government will protect them from all 'ills' of society is at an all time high – a reflection on the impact</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive, Oldham Council</p>
12:15	<p>Closing address and Chair's summary</p>
12:25	<p>Seminar ends with networking lunch</p>

Social Events

**Thursday
19:15**



Pre Dinner Drinks - Hush Heath Winery

We are delighted to offer a wine tasting session hosted by Richard Balfour from the internationally acclaimed and Award winning English Winery. Hush Heath have been at the forefront of the growing English Wine movement with their flagship Balfour Brut Rose being the first English sparkling wine to be served in the BA First class and the official English wine of the London 2021 Olympics. Richard will introduce to their popular still and sparkling wines and share with us the story of Hush Heath.

**Thursday
20:15**

Call to Dinner

**Thursday
21:45**



After Dinner Speaker - Ben Page, Chief Executive - Ipsos MORI

Ben joined MORI in 1987 after graduating from Oxford University in 1986, and was one of the leaders of its first management buyout in 2000. A frequent writer and speaker on trends, leadership and performance management, he has directed thousands of surveys examining consumer trends and citizen behavior. In April, we will have had a new Government for almost six months and no doubt Ben will share with his thoughts and insights.

