

EVENT PROGRAMME

MAKE IT
HAPPEN WITH
Big Local

2 DAYS OF ACTIVITY & INSPIRATION

Welcome to Big Local Connects! This year we are focusing on Celebrating Local at Connects, to recognise a year full of inspiring national events, the first Big Local area completing the programme, Creative Civic Change coming to a close, and (of course) all the amazing ways Big Local areas are making it happen! We've themed this year's Ideas Hub and sessions around the top five partnership needs that Big Local areas helped us identify as part of Make it Happen:

POWER-UP YOUR PARTNERSHIP:

Ideas for strengthening the core skills you need to get your plans moving - like leadership, money confidence and asset management.

CONNECT & INFLUENCE:

Ways to grow your network, engage your communities and nurture the volunteer base you need to help you deliver your plans.

FIND YOUR VOICE:

Inspiration for ways to tell your Big Local story, including top communications tips and campaigning and advocacy advice.

GET INCLUSIVE:

How to take steps to ensure your partnership represents your community and that you are hearing different voices and engaging with underrepresented groups.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE:

Advice and examples of how to plan your legacy, from securing a community asset and becoming a legal body, to climate-proofing your Big Local plan.

IDEAS HUB

Theatre

Friday – 3.30–6.30pm / Saturday – all day

Drop by the Ideas Hub to find a selection of stallholders including Big Local areas, support partners and other organisations working on issues that affect communities. An opportunity to share what your area is doing, find out about support and get ideas and inspiration you can take back to your partnership.

The Ideas Hub is themed around the Make it Happen needs:

POWER UP YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Community assets and legal bodies support

Jeff Scales and Mick McGrath (Locality), and Mark Walton (Shared Assets)

Come and discuss any assets projects or ideas you have with our partners, who can offer you help and signpost useful next steps. They can also support you if you want to understand your options for becoming a legal body. (Friday and Saturday)

Community leadership academy

Sheetal Mistry (Koreo) and Zain Ali (Young Foundation)

Learn more about the Community Leadership Academy, including from current Big Local participants, and find out if it could be the exciting next step in your Big Local journey! (Friday and Saturday)

Calling for change through the Cost of Living Alliance

Nick Gardham (Community Organisers) and Cost of Living Alliance member

Find out about the Alliance, how your area can help them build evidence of the impact of increased costs on local people and communities and get involved to help call for change. (Friday and Saturday)

PALFREY BIG LOCAL

Preventing youth violence

Imrana Niazi

Come and chat with Imrana about the iMatterWalsall Preventing youth violence games and how to use these to help create awareness about crime in the community. (Friday only)

CONNECT AND INFLUENCE

Community engagement and volunteer support

Katy Knight & Macaulay Olagoke (WSA), Kim Wilde (Take a Part)

Come and chat to our community engagement partners about how to ensure residents and communities are at the heart of your plans to create lasting change and help inform our peer learning network. (Friday and Saturday)

Bringing people together in your community

Meena Jeewa, James Austin and Laura Nash (Jo Cox Foundation)

Find out about being part of the More in Common network or organising the Great Get Together. Share your ideas about how to bring together people from all backgrounds and build a community where everyone feels like they belong. (Friday and Saturday)

Creating a fairer community and society

Nathaniel Whitestone and Adele Bird (A Fairer Society)

Take part in a 15-minute surgery on how to organise your community, make effective decisions, and troubleshoot issues of power, authority, and inclusion. You can also hear how other communities have used the Sociocratic Neighbourhood Circles model of organising in communities around the world. (Friday and Saturday)

KEIGHLEY BIG LOCAL

Creative community engagement techniques

Claire Denby and Shaun O'Hare

Come along to find out how Keighley Big Local are engaging residents in creative ways – from cone-sultations to their One Hour Tidy – using celebrations and shared experiences as the catalyst to grow a community. (Friday only)

GATESHEAD BIG LOCAL

Cycling clubs for better community health and wellbeing

Lawrence O'Halleron, Chris Folwell, and Andrew Tinkler

Come and find out about Gateshead Big Locals' Teams Wheelers Community Cycle Club, which is helping people make the most of cycling for fun, transport, health, and mental wellbeing. (Saturday only)

FIND YOUR VOICE

Communications and media support

Tamsin Curror, Amanda Smethurst and Peg Alexander (Communications and Media partners)

Come and have a chat about telling your Big Local story with our new communications partners. They will be sharing practical tips and advice and asking for your input to shape a brand new communications peer learning network designed for, by and with you. (Friday and Saturday)

Growing a movement for neighbourhood democracy

Simon Duffy, Joe Kriss and Natalie Burton (Neighbourhood Democracy Movement)

Come and talk to Neighbourhood Democracy Movement about how they are growing community power from the grassroots to tackle the problems we all face and find out how you can get involved. (Friday and Saturday)

WHITLEIGH BIG LOCAL

Promoting awareness about Tourette's syndrome

Jon Dingle (youth worker), Star Drew, Harley Drew and young people from Whitleigh Big Local

Come and chat to Whitleigh Big Local about how they are promoting awareness about Tourette's syndrome. (Friday only)

SO18 BIG LOCAL

Transforming family relationships

Aimi Willmer and
Michelle McCarthy
(NVR parent practitioners)

Come and chat to SO18 Big Local and their team of parent practitioners to find out about the New Vision on Relationships (Non violent resistance) training the area have been funding since 2018, which has transformed local families' relationships. (Saturday only)

Community Wealth Fund campaign

Rayhan Haque, Gina Braithwaite,
and Ella Smith (Local Trust)

Come and find out more about the exciting campaign for a Community Wealth Fund, which would fund and empower 'left behind' and deprived neighbourhoods to create lasting change for their residents. You can also find out how you can help the campaign to secure a share of the £740m worth of new funding available from the expanded dormant assets scheme. (Friday and Saturday)

GET INCLUSIVE

Inclusive and accessible partnerships

Prisca Munzamba,
Sonia Tyrna, Tessa Cooper
(Collaborative Future)

Come and share your ideas for ensuring your partnership represents your community and help create a collective map of the learning, practices and approaches that create inclusive, safe, and accessible Big Local partnerships. (Friday and Saturday)

Youth participation and voice

Kay Davidson (UK Youth)
and Youth Parliament
Steering Group Member

Come along and find out about the new UK Youth Parliament Manifesto and hear about how UK Youth connect young people to positions of power. Share your successes and challenges and get ideas for how young people could get their voices heard in your area. (Friday and Saturday)

STOKE NORTH BIG LOCAL

Growing Field project

Alistair Lias and Tina Lias

Find out about Growing Field, a food growing project with an intergenerational focus, which also involves spaces for community activity. This project was aired on TV as part of DIY SOS. (Friday only)

GRACE MARY TO LION FARM BIG LOCAL

Youth enterprise

Tracy Lowe, Jennie Jones,
Lewis Jones

Learn how Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local set up their very own successful youth enterprise business, which helped them engage young people in the community. Free raffle ticket for anyone who has a chat, with the chance to win merchandise designed by a young person. (Saturday only)

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Climate action in communities

Tess Rushton and Harriet Sanson
(CSE), Ralph Rudden and Freda Eyden
(Sale West Big Local,
Friday only)

Come and chat to CSE about how they can help with high energy bills, poor air quality or other climate related issues, as well as what they are already doing with Big Local communities, including with Sale West Big Local for their hugely successful schools climate conference. (Friday and Saturday)

Funding for arts and culture

Jess Tickell (Arts Council)

Come and see the Arts Council, who want to support communities to become happier, healthier and more financially stable through an investment in culture. You can also find out about open funding opportunities. (Friday and Saturday)

National Lottery Community Fund

Marc Lupson and
Eleanor Kaufman

The National Lottery Community Fund are keen to hear from communities as they develop their strategy, Putting Communities First. Help them unpick how we best address the challenges and opportunities facing communities. (Friday only)

Big Locals Together

Anna Bradley-Dorman
(Ramsey Big Local) and
Roy Blenkin (Barrowcliff Big Local)

Come and talk to Big Locals Together about their ambition to continue to build a Big Local legacy after 2026 and how you can use your skills to continue empowering your community. (Friday and Saturday)

100 year plan

Anna Francis and Rebecca
Davies (The Portland Inn
CCC Project)

Learn how long-term planning in communities can lead to grassroots change from the Portland Inn project (part of the Creative Civic Change programme) - who've used landscape and garden design thinking to transform the way residents see their neighbourhood. (Saturday only)

Ask Local Trust

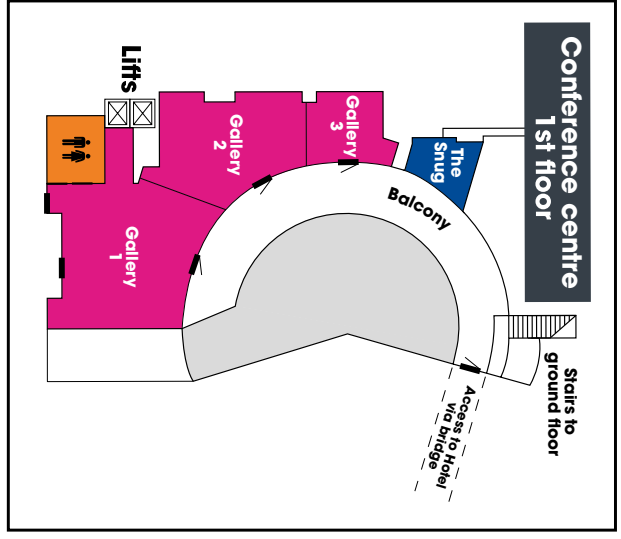
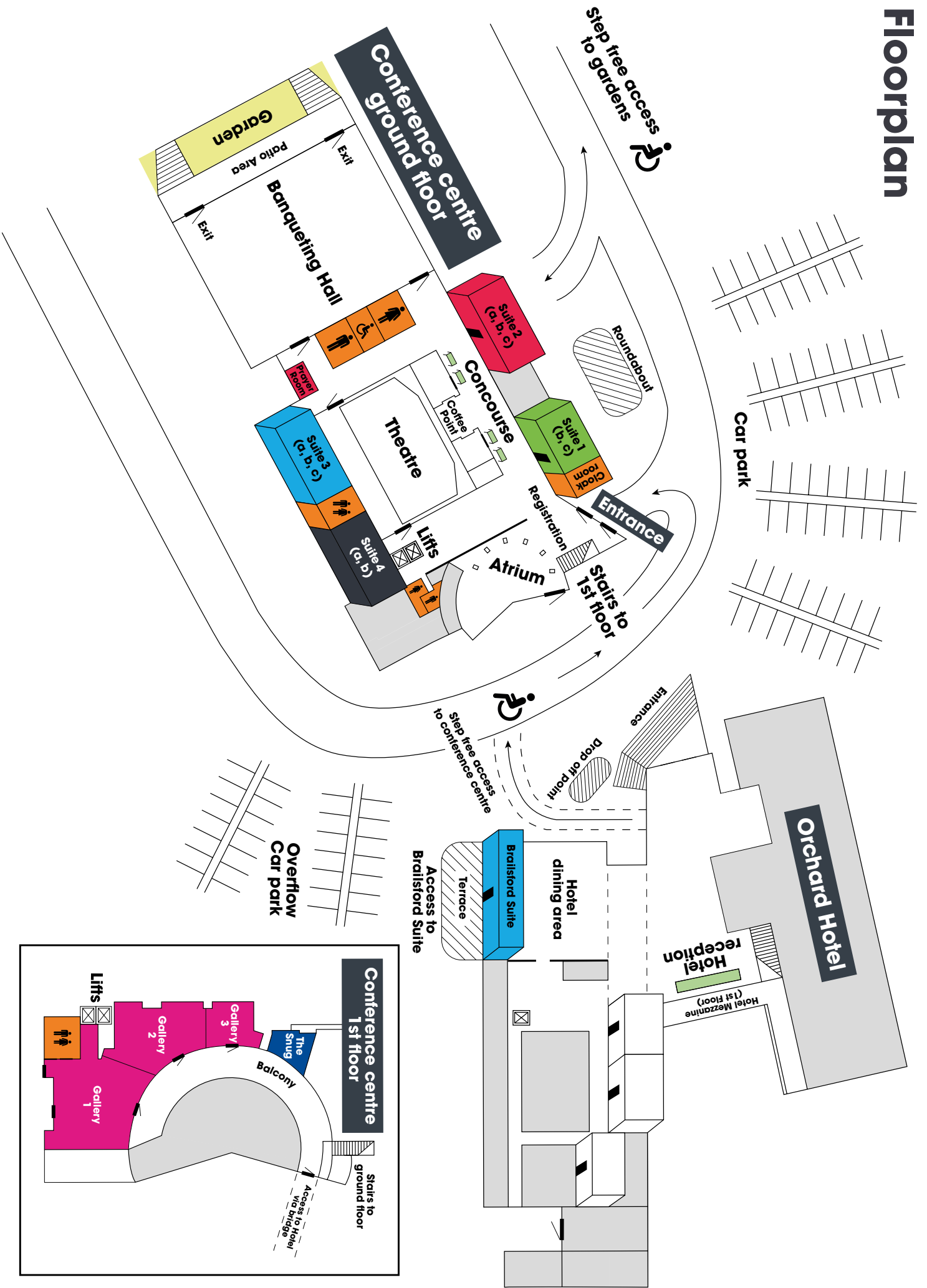
Meet Local Trust staff and trustees, ask us your questions and sign up for support to Make it Happen in your area.

Fancy winning Big Local artwork and a CASS arts voucher?

Answer the question and include your name on the Make it Happen card in your bag and pin the card in the centre of the Ideas Hub



Floorplan



SESSION TYPES

Find a session type that you're in the mood for:

- **Listen and learn** – find inspiration at sessions full of new ideas
- **Do** – take part in an activity or experience with others
- **Interactive** – contribute and share your experiences at a workshop

FRIDAY

Buffet lunch and registration Banqueting Hall and Atrium

1.15–2.15pm

Register for Connects and receive your welcome bag. A cloakroom is available nearby where you can store your coat and bag. Relax into the event, catch up with old friends and make new ones over lunch.

Luggage storage Cloakroom – Conference 1 (a)

1.15pm–10pm

Prayer room See floorplan

1.15–10pm

Storytelling space (drop in) Concourse

All day

Type: Interactive

Immerse yourself in some of the amazing stories from Big Local and Creative Civic Change communities. This is the perfect space to take some time for yourself by getting stuck into a podcast, watching a film, or even taking a photo to add to our wall.

Garden games (drop in) Garden

1.15–6.30pm

Type: Do

Grab your friends and have some fun in the garden, where there will be games to play (if the weather is onside!).

Ice cream van Outside front entrance

1.15–6.30pm

Use the tokens in your packs to claim your free ice cream!

Welcome, opening plenary and keynote Banqueting Hall

2.15–3.20pm

Type: Listen and learn

Speakers: Matt Leach (Local Trust), Leila Nicholas (Local Trust) and Kwajo Tweneboia (Campaigner)

Listen to a programme update by Local Trust CEO Matt, followed by a lightning tour of the Ideas Hub. Our keynote speech will be from activist Kwajo Tweneboia, who campaigns against poor social housing conditions and speaks on behalf of ill-treated tenants who face injustice, to bring about change.

Heritage crafts (drop in) Atrium

3.30–6.30pm

Type: Do

Speakers: Debbie Bryan

Have a go at Cyanotype printmaking and hand-embroidery to create your own piece of heritage craft during two magical and mindful creative workshops, using locally made Nottingham Lace.

3.30–4.30pm

What does it take to be a successful campaigner? Conference 3

Type: Interactive

Speaker: Kwajo Tweneboia (Campaigner)

Following Kwajo's keynote speech, he will run a session to go into more detail about his experience of campaigning. It will be a chance to explore what it takes to be a successful campaigner.

Cinema for everyone Brailsford

Type: Listen and learn

Speakers: Mazhar Ellahi (Greenmoor Big Local) and Andrew Waterman (Bradford Community Cinemas)

Find out how to set up a community cinema from Greenmoor Big Local, who have developed a model to support local groups wanting to do just that. They will cover key considerations, from licenses to equipment requirements, common pitfalls, and what's needed to succeed.

How to create and share stories of change Gallery 2

Type: Interactive

Speakers: Imogen Blood and Dr Sarah Alden (Evaluation and Research Alliance)

Learn how to use stories to change perceptions of Big Local places and projects. In this workshop, you will learn about the powerful method of Most Significant Change and put it to practice by sharing a story, collecting them from others, and learning how to use them to influence change.

Creating happy memories Conference 1 (b/c)

Type: Do

Speaker: Clare Hackney-Ring (Devonshire West Big Local)

Find out how to set up a Community Kitchen which makes refugees feel welcome.

This session will be repeated on Saturday at 10.30am.

Creative problem solving Conference 4

Type: Interactive

Speaker: Lisa Meaney and Shae Eccleston (Just Ideas)

Learn skills and techniques to help solve problems and overcome tricky issues. Facilitators from Just Ideas will model simple and effective approaches as well as offer a safe space for you to unpick problems, whilst helping others work through theirs.

Radical Welcome: Building a place of safety in a hostile environment Conference 2

Type: Listen and learn

Speaker: Tom Martin (Sheffield City of Sanctuary)

Listen to the story of The Sanctuary: "a place of physical, mental, and emotional safety for asylum seekers and refugees". You'll then have time to consider the spaces you run, from offices to community centres, and how they could evolve to become safer and more welcoming for your communities.

This session will be repeated at 4.40pm.

Purposeful Movement Gallery 1

Type: Do

Speakers: Helen Parsons, Phil Sheridan (Discover Tai Chi)

Take some time to settle into Connects, through simple, embodied movements to ease tension away after your journey.

4.40–5.40pm

The journey of the KHL Community Workshop Brailsford

Type: Interactive

Speakers: Tony Thompson, Andrew Carroll (Kingswood and Hazel Leys Big Local)

Hear from members of Kingswood and Hazel Leys Big Local partnership share the story of the development of their community workshop. Interact and take part in a fun, crafty activity led by the team.

Big Local Buddies – sharing community engagement and volunteering experience and ideas during Connects Conference 4

Type: Interactive

Speakers: Wendy Sugarman, Katy Knight (WSA Community Consultants)

Help shape a community engagement buddying / mentoring programme for Big Local areas. This workshop will support Big Local areas to share and celebrate positive community engagement and volunteering experiences with each other whilst supporting areas who are looking for inspiration.

Chairs networking – burn bright, don't burn out Gallery 2

Type: Interactive

Speaker: Daksha Patel (Facilitator)

Focus on how to burn bright rather than burn out in this session for Big Local partnership chairs and vice chairs only. This will be an interactive workshop that involves both individual and group activities and is a great opportunity to meet your peers.

Radical Welcome: Building a place of safety in a hostile environment Conference 2

Type: Listen and learn

Speaker: Tom Martin (Sheffield City of Sanctuary)

Listen to the story of The Sanctuary: "a place of physical, mental, and emotional safety for asylum seekers and refugees". You'll then have time to consider the spaces you run, from offices to community centres, and how they could evolve to become safer and more welcoming for your communities.

This is a repeat of the session at 3.30–4.30pm.

The show must go on! Conference 3

Type: Interactive

Speakers: Clare Maclean, Philip Howkins, Paul Wright and Tim Evans (Firs and Bromford Big Local)

Learn about how community theatre can have an incredible ripple effect on a community, and how using the passions, gifts and skills of local people can make a massive impact.

Community asset sustainability: navigating the storm Conference 1 (b/c)

Type: Listen and learn

Speaker: Jeff Scales and Kathryn Roper (Locality) and Alison Jones (Little Hulton Big Local)

Join Locality and Little Hulton Big Local to hear about the strengths of the community enterprise model, what the key risks are on the horizon and how to navigate through them.

This session will be repeated on Saturday at 11.40am.

Purposeful Movement Gallery 1

Type: Do

Speakers: Helen Parsons, Phil Sheridan (Discover Tai Chi)

Take some time to settle into Connects, through simple, embodied movements to ease tension away after your journey.

Drop in

5.40–6.30pm

Explore the Ideas Hub, the Storytelling space, or relax in the garden before the evening fun starts.

Buffet dinner Banqueting Hall

6.30pm onwards

Entertainment Banqueting Hall

8.00–9.00pm

Type: Do

Speaker: Dance Party Experience

Dust off those dancing shoes and get ready to be taken through a music mashup from the 50's, 60's and 70's, in a follow-the-leader style Dance Party Experience after dinner.

**Coaches to offsite
hotels from 9.45pm**

SATURDAY

Registration
(for new arrivals only)
Atrium
8.45-10.00am

Luggage Storage
Cloakroom - Conference 1 (a)
All day

Prayer room
See floorplan
1.30-10pm

Storytelling space (drop in)
Concourse
All day

Type: Interactive
Immerse yourself in some of the amazing stories from Big Local and Creative Civic Change communities. This is the perfect space to take some time for yourself by getting stuck into a podcast, watching a film, or even taking a photo to add to our wall.

Garden games (drop in)
Garden
1.30-6.15pm

Type: Do
Grab your friends and have some fun in the garden, where there will be games to play (if the weather is onsite!).

Ice cream van
Garden
1.30-6.15pm

Use the tokens in your packs to claim your free ice cream!

Heritage crafts (drop in)
Atrium
3.20-6.15pm

Type: Do
Speaker: Debbie Bryan
Have a go at Cyanotype printmaking and hand-embroidery to create your own piece of heritage craft during two magical and mindful creative workshops, using locally made Nottingham Lace.

Welcome plenary
Banqueting Hall
10.00-10.20am

Type: Listen and learn
Speakers: James Goodman (Local Trust) and Darren McGarvey (Author and campaigner)
Welcome to day two of Connects! Hear upcoming highlights to help you plan your day, followed by a keynote speech from Darren McGarvey. Listen to the findings of Darren's recent study which explores deep social problems and the huge imbalances of power, documented in his latest book 'The Social Distance Between Us', and what Darren sees as the solutions needed to address these.

10.30-11.30am

Extraordinary Big Locals Together
Conference 2

Type: Interactive
Speakers: Stephen Perez (Arches Big Local) and James Masters (Grange Big Local)
Hear about the Big Locals Together programme and nominate members onto the board at this Extraordinary General Meeting. This will also be the first opportunity to hear about the group's business plan and to give your feedback.

Inspire 2022: a youth-led programme of change in our communities
Brailsford

Type: Listen and learn
Speakers: Poppie Jones (UK Youth) and Kynton Swingle (Fox Hollies Community Association)
Learn about Inspire 2022: a programme designed to train, support and provide resources for youth-led initiatives in our communities and link these back to a year of national achievements. This session will focus on how these initiatives are working in different areas, the role youth hubs play and how you can implement Inspire in your Big Local area.
This session will be repeated at 2.00pm.

What does community leadership look like?
Conference 4

Type: Interactive
Speakers: Sheetal Mistry (Koreo) and Zain Ali (The Young Foundation)
Join the team from the Community Leadership Academy to explore different 'community leadership' styles and how they might play out in your community work.

The art of fundraising and income generation
Gallery 2

Type: Interactive
Speaker: Kim Wilde (Take A Part)
Pick up some top tips for thinking about and getting started in fundraising, including what it takes to start building your own fundraising strategy.
This session will be repeated at 11.40am.

Creating happy memories
Conference 3

Type: Do
Speaker: Clare Hackney-Ring (Devonshire West Big Local)
Find out how to set up a Community Kitchen which makes refugees feel welcome.
This is a repeat of the session on Friday at 3.30pm-4.30pm.

Purposeful Movement
Gallery 1

Type: Do
Speakers: Helen Parsons, Phil Sheridan (Discover Tai Chi)
Settle into day two through simple, embodied movements to ease any tension away.

11.40am-12.40pm

Creating inclusive spaces
Conference 3

Type: Interactive
Speakers: Tessa Cooper, Prisca Munzamba and Sonia Tyrna (Collaborative Future)
Join Collaborative Future to explore different perspectives of what makes a safe and accessible space, and what barriers to this look like for others. This session will spark ideas for you to take into your own spaces, be it team meetings, community workshops or informal get-togethers. Come with an open mind, ready to delve into a conversation.

Big Locals spending-out - reflecting on the Big Local journey and considering what next
Conference 2

Type: Listen and learn
Speakers: Clive Bacchus (Growing Together Big Local) and Dr Simon Duffy (Neighbourhood Democracy Movement)
Reflect on your journey as you move towards the end of the Big Local programme and consider your next steps beyond the programme. You'll hear from the Chair of the Growing Together Big Local partnership about their achievements and learnings as they approach spend-out, as well as the peer network 'Neighbourhood Democracy Movement' on the topic of networking beyond Big Local.

The climate crisis and cost-of-energy crisis – building resilience in your community to face these twin challenges

Brailsford

Type: [Interactive](#)

Speakers: Harriet Sansom, Tess Rushton (Centre for Sustainable Energy)

Explore what can be done to build the resilience of people and buildings in your community during a climate and a cost of living crisis, which is creating soaring energy costs. You will hear about the work we have been doing with Big Local communities – from improving the energy performance of their community buildings, to responding to rising fuel costs, and how best to engage young people on the climate crisis.

Inspiring youth experiences

Conference 1 (b/c)

Type: [Interactive](#)

Speakers: Young representatives from Whiteleigh Big Local, Jon Dingle (Space Shot Youth Projects)

Be inspired by young people who've achieved brilliant things across Big Local. You'll have a chance to speak directly to young people from Whiteleigh Big Local about the creative ways they've been involved and led in their areas, and learn from each other about how to support youth leadership locally.

The art of fundraising and income generation

Gallery 2

Type: [Interactive](#)

Speaker: Kim Wilde (Take A Part)

Pick up some top tips for thinking about and getting started in fundraising, including what it takes to start building your own fundraising strategy.

[This is a repeat of the session at 10.30-11.30am.](#)

Community asset sustainability; navigating the storm

Conference 4

Type: [Listen and learn](#)

Speaker: Mick McGrath and Kathryn Roper (Locality) and David Carnaffan (Whitley Bay Big Local)

Join Locality and Whitley Bay Big Local to hear about the strengths of the community enterprise model, what the key risks are on the horizon and how to navigate through them.

[This is a repeat of the session on Friday at 4.40pm-5.40pm.](#)

Purposeful movement

Gallery 1

Type: [Do](#)

Speakers: Helen Parsons, Phil Sheridan (Discover Tai Chi)

Take a break and join Discover Tai Chi for easy embodied movement to help you limber up, ready for the final afternoon session.

Lunch

Banqueting Hall

[12.40-2.00pm](#)

2.00-3.00pm

Focusing on the positives...

The film version

Brailsford

Type: [Listen and learn](#)

Speakers: Ann-Marie Tynan and Nikki Gascoigne (Windmill Hill Big Local)

Watch a film created by Windmill Hill Big Local to tell the story of how one partnership member's experience of CLA helped transform a struggling partnership's perspective.

Inspire 2022: a youth-led programme of change in our communities

Conference 4

Type: [Listen and learn](#)

Speakers: Poppie Jones (UK Youth) and Kynton Swingle (Fox Hollies Community Association)

Learn about Inspire 2022: a programme designed to train, support and provide resources for youth-led initiatives in our communities and link these back to a year of national achievements. This session will focus on how these initiatives are working in different areas, the role youth hubs play and how you can implement Inspire in your Big Local area.

[This is a repeat of the session at 10.30-11.30am.](#)

Creating a resident-led legacy

Conference 2

Type: [Interactive](#)

Speakers: Barbara Arrandale, Chris Newton and other members of Grassland Hasmoor Big Local

Do residents flow through your Big Local 'door'? Does your project 'survive' on a handful of folk? How is your project preparing for 'the end'? Find the Mozarts and avoid the cliff edge by joining an interactive discussion led by Grassland Hasmoor Big Local (GHBL).

Find your voice through communication

Conference 3

Type: [Interactive](#)

Speakers: Amanda Smethurst, Tamsin Curror (Facilitators)

Join facilitator and coach Amanda Smethurst and our communications support partners for a taster peer learning workshop. You'll have the space to reflect on your communications experiences and identify some common challenges and talk potential solutions. The spirit of this session is about sharing honestly and openly, about what you're doing and learning, and knowing that you are not alone.

The Community Wealth Fund campaign & dormant assets consultation: a briefing

Gallery 2

Type: [Listen and learn](#)

Speakers: Rayhan Haque, Gina Braithwaite (The Community Wealth Fund campaign team at Local Trust)

Join us at this session to learn more about the campaign for a Community Wealth Fund and how you can participate in the dormant assets consultation, which will help determine how nearly £740m worth of new money for good causes is to be spent, including considering community wealth funds as an option.

Purposeful Movement

Gallery 1

Type: [Do](#)

Speakers: Helen Parsons, Phil Sheridan (Discover Tai Chi)

Wind down and ease yourself into your weekend with easy embodied movements helping you feel relaxed and ready for more.

Finale

Banqueting Hall

[3.10-3.20pm](#)

Type: [Listen and learn](#)

Speakers: Alice Calder and Sarah Donohoe (Local Trust) and Voices of the Vale from Big (Local) Warsop

Here to make sure we end Connects on a high are the young performers from Voices of the Vale performing arts. There will also be closing remarks from Alice Calder and Sarah Donohoe (Local Trust), plus winners of the raffle will be announced.

Coaches to Nottingham train station from 3.30pm