



Agenda

8:30am

Gym

Arrival – Coffee Time

9am - 12pm

Gym

Keynote Speaker

Understanding Ableism, the Politics of Disablement, and the Foundations of Disability Pride

Evelina Baczewska

This session establishes a foundation for understanding ableism and the politics of disablement. Through a storytelling-driven approach that blends personal narrative, lived and learned experience, language, and visual media, this session equips professionals and community members with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to build disability-affirming environments that support disabled people and anyone impacted by ableism.

12pm - 1pm

Gym

Lunch Break

1pm - 2:30pm

Various Rooms

Breakout Sessions

ABCD in Action

Tara Buchanan

In this workshop we will explore ways to incorporate Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) into everyday supports. You will leave with some tools and activities that can help everyone build on their existing natural relationships and build new ones.

Informed and Committed Action Toward Countering Ableism

Evelina Baczewska

This session turns awareness into action. Building directly from the concepts, lived experiences, and critical reflections explored in Evelina's earlier presentation, this interactive breakout session invites participants to practice what it means to actively disrupt ableism and embody disability pride in real time. Through guided activities, collaborative problem-solving, and scenario-based learning, participants move beyond theoretical understanding and begin developing the practical skills required to challenge ableist norms within their organizations, communities, and everyday interactions.



SYMPOSIUM 2026

People • Perspectives • Possibilities

The Grass Roots of Independent Living: Supporting Choice, Voice and Autonomy

North Yorkers for Disabled Persons: Negar Abassi, Phoebe Samuelson, Vera Harris

This workshop explores the grass roots of the Independent Living philosophy and how it translates into meaningful, person-centred support for persons with physical disabilities and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users.

What Matters Most? Turning Perspectives into Possibilities Through POM

Janette Andersen, Tracy Sabeen Smith

What makes a good life? The answer is different for each of us. In this interactive session, we'll explore how Personal Outcome Measures (POM) help us better understand what truly matters to a person and what a good life looks like from their perspective. Through discussion, real-life scenarios and activities, we'll introduce the 3Es — Education, Exposure and Experience — and explore how they can open new possibilities, expand meaningful choice, and support people to achieve the outcomes that matter most to them. Come ready to share, reflect and discover how People, Perspectives and Possibilities can come together to support more person-centred lives.

2:30pm-3pm

Gym

Break

3pm - 4pm

Gym

Afternoon Conversations & Key Takeaways

