



## **ACE CONFERENCE WELL RECEIVED BY DELEGATES**

**“Excellent organisation by the team. Very impactful informative and highly professional”**



The first ACE Conference since 2019, which was held in Hinckley, Leicestershire was a big success according to Conference delegates and exhibitors. The Conference was chaired by Chinyere Adeniyi-Alade from Grampian Credit Union who introduced an excellent range of speakers including Nick Money from Swoboda Research Centre who spoke about why research matters for credit unions; Abbie Shelton from the Oral History Project gave an update on the material outcomes from the National Lottery Heritage Funded Save & Sound project; Dawn Cummins from the Money and Pensions Service highlighted the role that credit unions can play in the achievement of the targets set in the MaPS Financial Wellbeing Strategy. The Friday afternoon session was ended by Trish Cassidy from the National Illegal Money Lending team who spoke about working alongside credit unions to raise awareness to the threats loan sharks.



**A mix of credit union delegates from 10 ACE credit unions and exhibitors from 8 organisations enjoyed an excellent Friday evening dinner with lots of networking and exchanging of information taking place.**

**The Saturday session was started by Marcela Hashim from the PRA who spoke about the PRA's expectations of credit unions. This was followed by Dina Devalia from Quantuma who spoke about why credit unions fail and what are the warning signs. Michelle Ohren from the Cyber Resilience Centre for the West Midlands then spoke about the cyber threats for credit unions and how they can become more resilient to these threats. Mark Hooper from Banc Cambria then spoke about how Banc Cambria hopes to work in partnership with the credit union sector in Wales. The Saturday morning session was ended by Paul Jones from Liverpool John Moores University who spoke about the main categories of risk facing our credit unions.**

**There were then 3 Workshops: Credit Union Mergers led by Lisa Warburton (Chief Operating Officer) and Samantha Owen (Finance Manager) from Unify Credit Union; The Financial Impact of the Covid-19 on UK credit unions led Chinyere Adeniyi-Alade, CEO at Grampian Credit Union and Improving Access to Financial Services during and post Covid 19- Janine Marengi, CEO at SaveEasy Credit Union.**

**A big thank you goes to Conference was sponsored by Sercle, with over 30 years' experience of growing and servicing the UK Credit Union Movement. Thanks also goes to CU Insurance who sponsored the wine for the Friday evening dinner.**

