"Resilient People, Resilient Communities, Resilient Places"

Thursday, 29th – Friday 30th November 2021

Participant Biographies

Susan Attard

Susan Attard is the Head of Productivity at the LGA (Local Government Association). Susan oversees a range of programmes providing improvement support to local councils; this includes digital, cyber security, behavioural insights, procurement, economic growth and climate change.

Prior to working at the LGA Susan spent her career working in local government including twelve years as Deputy Town Clerk at the City of London Corporation. During this period, she led and implemented a wide-range of successful projects transforming services and improving accessibility for residents and businesses.

William Barker

William is an Associate Director with Socitm currently focussing on Regeneration, Levelling-up and Ethical Change agendas.

Prior to retiring in 2019 he was a career Civil Servant with some forty years' experience of working at the heart of Whitehall, local government and academia on constitutional change, public service reform, digital government and cyber resilience agendas.

He is regularly consulted as a contributory author/public speaker on ethical change and machinery of government reform by organisations such as Reform, LGA, SOLACE, SOCITM, and St George's House.

Mark Bentley

Mark manages LGfL's safeguarding and cybersecurity centres of excellence for a community of over 3,000 schools in London and across the UK. His remit is to help keep children safe and schools secure, overseeing technology such as web filtering and antivirus, plus policy work and resources, education and training for staff and students. He sits on various national bodies including the UKCCIS Education Working Group, helping to shape national policy and stay abreast of the latest issues to share with schools across the LGfL network, and the Digital Policy Alliance SafetyTech Group, working on online harms policy. Mark recently worked with the National Cybersecurity Centre to conduct the first audit of UK school cybersecurity.

Mark Brett

Mark Brett is a Chartered Manager and Chartered IT Professional and an NCSC Certified Lead Security and Information Risk Advisor (CCP Lead SIRA). Mark has worked previously with the London Resilience Team, the Cabinet Office PSN Team, MOJ Digital and in DLUHC as interim CISO and Cyber Resilience Advisor.

Mark was the national technical advisor to the Programme, having developed a number of the Cyber Resilience Exercises that were run nationally with the Local Resilience Forums as part of the Pathfinder programme.

For the past four years, Mark has led the Welsh Government Cyber Programme Resilience Programme for Local Government. He is the Programme & Research Director for the Cyber Technical Advisory Group C-TAG. He is also a member of the IASME Advisory Board (Pro-Bono), and continues to be Pro Bono Cyber & resilience Advisor to the Socitm Local CIO Council.

Mark is an Honorary Fellow in Cyber Security at London Metropolitan University and at De Montfort University. Mark lectures at Warwick University, delivering the MSc Cyber Threat Intelligence and Incident Response modules. Mark has completed a Doctoral Training Programme at De Montfort.

Russ Charlesworth

Russ is an Industry Leader & Managing Consultant with 30+ years of experience. He has specialist local public services experience across NHS, Healthcare and Local Government across service and technology strategies, new target operating model development and workforce cultural change.

He has published over 30 articles, market guides and research findings including co-authoring "System Error" the 2011 seminal report on Agile adoption in Government; Integrated Care (Volumes 1 and 2); 10 Digital Initiatives for Adults and Childrens Social Care; "AI in Social Care" and "Virtual Care in the wake of Covid 19". Russ is a member of NHSX's RPA Review Board & Social Care Advisory Group (NSCAG), a Steering Committee member for the Healthcare Efficiency through Technology (HETT) conference, a Board member of the Federation for Health & Care Informaticians (FEDIP) and a Trustee of leading Healthcare Education Charity Kings Foundation and Kings Live.

Geoff Connell

Geoff Connell is a highly experienced local public sector ICT manager who is responsible for technology and digital service delivery at Norfolk County Council. He has previously led teams in multiple London Boroughs to modernise and optimise ICT infrastructures, as well as delivering digitally enabled transformation programmes to implement new organisational delivery models. This work has led to Geoff being awarded with numerous top CIO and Digital Leadership awards from various prestigious organisations.

Geoff is active in Local Government programme management, knowledge sharing and policy development through his role as Socitm President (2016-2018) and board membership of sub-regional, regional and national groups including Socitm (Non-Exec Director), the Local Public Sector CIO Council (chair) and the Cyber Technical Advisory Council (chair).

Jos Creese

Jos is an independent consultant and analyst, providing advice to public and private sectors on digital and IT strategies. Since 2015, he has worked with over 250 different organisations.

He undertakes a wide range of research for professional bodies, including an annual digital trends report, cloud adoption, integrated care and, recently, on digital identity for Socitm.

He is a past president of both the British Computer Society, and the Society of Innovation, Technology and Management (Socitm). For over a decade, he was CIO and CDO for Hampshire County Council.

Jos chairs the Open University School of Computing Industrial Advisory Board and is a non-Exec for the Department of International Trade on the Risk and Audit Committee covering cyber, digital and information risk. He is also a non-Exec Director for Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust.

Sue Daley

Sue leads techUK's Technology and Innovation work. This includes work programmes on cloud, data, AI, digital ethics, Digital Identity and Internet of Things, and innovation policy. She has been recognised in Computer Weekly's UKtech50 Longlist and in 2021 was inducted into the Computer Weekly Most Influential Women in UK Tech Hall of Fame as well as being recognised in the UK's Big Data 100 and the Global Top 100 Data Visionaries for 2020. Sue is also co-chair of the UK government's National Data Strategy Forum. Prior to joining techUK Sue was responsible for Symantec's Government Relations in the UK and Ireland and a senior policy advisor at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). In 2016, Sue achieved a lifelong ambition to swim the English Channel.

Adam Doyle

Adam Doyle is the Director of Careers and Enterprise for the Royal Docks School, of Business and Law the Academic Director for the Institute of Government and Public Policy at the University of East London (UEL). In these roles, he liaises with industry and local authorities to find solutions to difficult issues through research and training provided by UEL. A former Head of Law and Criminology at UEL, Adam's research now focusses upon proving the civic value of higher education and identifying types of research and training to be undertaken to ensure higher education institutions provide genuine support for the communities they serve.

Martin Ferguson

Martin leads Socitm's policy and research spanning ethical use of technologies and data in post-Covid recovery, service design and transformation, leadership, diversity and skills, and modernising ICT service delivery.

A graduate of the Universities of Wales, Waterloo (Canada) and Birmingham, his local government career spans planning, environment, housing, leisure and recreation, IT, and policy and communications. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a founder member of the Linked Organisation of Local Authority ICT Societies, a member of Major Cities of Europe's Organising Committee, programme manager for Socitm's UK Local CIO Council and a past President of Socitm.

In Brazil and central Asia, he has led work on the British Council's e-governance programmes. He has served as an associate lecturer for the University of Birmingham's Public Service MBA in the UK and Hong Kong, a senior lecturer for the Open University Business School and an external examiner for Henley Business School. Currently, he sits on industry advisory boards for the Universities of Hertfordshire, Kingston and Loughborough and is a Trustee for Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

Alison Hughes

Alison is Assistant Director for ICT, Customer and Digital for Liverpool City Council since January 2020, having worked in the public sector for 37 years, previously holding posts in Liverpool, St Helens and Wigan Councils.
Alison is one of the Vice Presidents of SOCITM with a theme of Modernising ICT, because she is believes that there is so much opportunity to innovate in public service.

Alison is passionate about public service and delivering the best experience for our citizens, seeking ways to use innovative technology to enable people to become digital citizens and helping them to better use technology to take control of their own interactions with services.

Nadira Hussain

An experienced ICT and change management leader with 25+ years, Nadira has worked primarily in local government; leading the ICT service, managing wider teams including digital, business improvement, transformation and customer services. Nadira has implemented numerous complex change programmes across shared services to deliver new operating models, efficiencies and service improvement.

At Soctim, Nadira continues to focus on the work she initiated as president of the society (15/16), building the leadership, skills and diversity of the sector's workforce. Her passion is to tackle inequality, promote professionalism, improve personal development opportunities and champion women role models. Currently her wider responsibilities include; workforce development advisory boards for HEE (Building a Digital Ready Workforce [BDRW]) and FedIP, board member for the Institute of Government and Public Policy (IGPP), board member for the Solace in Business (SiB) Board. Her voluntary and charitable work include; channel board member for Ada's List, steering group member for the Shuri Network and Diversity in Local Government Leadership (DLGL) forum, co-founder and co-chair Socitm/UKAuthority Women in Local Government ICT network and non-executive director for the #techmums board.

Bob Kamall

In the last twenty years, Bob has worked in various roles supporting public sector policy, especially relating to the modernisation and reform agendas. Often working on cross-sector programmes with the devolved administrations, local government and wider public sector organisations. His previous roles include supporting channel shift, promoting digital inclusion & digital take-up at GDS; and working on the local cyber resilience programme at MHCLG. He is currently working in the Chief Digital & Data Office (within Cabinet Office) supporting the development of the Digital, Data & Technology function across central government.

Peter Lefort

Peter Lefort runs the University of Exeter's Green Futures Network, connecting environmental research and resources to communities, businesses and policy-makers across the UK and beyond. His focus is on how organisations can operationalise complexity and emergence in order to build resilience in the face of the interconnected crises we are facing. This includes models such as doughnut economics that enable us to understand the systemic impacts of sectors and places. Peter's background is in community network building, and he is also the Co-Chair of the Transition Network, an international movement of grassroots environmental initiatives.

Kate Lindley

With more than 15 years of experience leading digitally enabled change in local public services and housing, Kate is passionate about place-orientated approaches to the complex challenges facing communities across the UK.

Kate leads Socitm Advisory's Digital and Data capabilities, supporting councils, housing providers and national bodies to deliver sustainable service design and transformation. Outside of work she is a non-Executive Director and Chair of Governance at a Northern housing association with a focus on creating great homes and strong communities.

Mark Lumley

Mark has been the Director for Digital & IT at London Borough of Hounslow since September 2019. He has spent 20+ years in local government, starting in 1999 at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

Mark has had 9 years working in shared services, first at Epsom & Ewell and Elmbridge and then the London Boroughs of Kingston and Sutton. He was elected as Vice President of Socitm in 2020 and is the policy lead for the ethical and secure use of emerging technologies and data.

Steven Mathieson - Rapporteur

Steven has written about technology and government for more than two decades. Since 2014, he has worked as a freelance journalist for publications including Computer Weekly, the Register, Civil Service World and PublicTechnology. He has edited Socitm's In Our View magazine since 2016 and also writes reports for the society.

Aidan Matthews

Aidan has over 20 years' experience as a learning and development professional. He has worked with a wide range of clients in the private, public and charity sectors. He works nationally, internationally and virtually. His recent experience has been focused in the Tech/IT sector.

He has supported managers, leaders and teams through a range of accredited programmes for both the ILM (Institute of Leadership & Management) and the CMI (Chartered Management Institute).

His own management experience has been in the hospitality, music and retail industries where he developed the passion for encouraging people to fulfil their potential.

Aidan is motivated by the desire to help people grow and improve, particularly as leaders and managers. He delivers with genuine enthusiasm and self-awareness for learners. He is a qualified executive coach. His engaging facilitation brings training models to life with real world examples. He loves people and working through the learning process.

He is qualified in psychometric tools such as Hogan assessments, PRISM Brain mapping, E.S.C.I.(Emotional & Social Competency Inventory), Belbin Team Roles and uses them in his coaching work for individual and team development. He joined Socitm to help Nadira Hussain develop the Leadership Academy to become the first-place members come to when growing their organisations talent.

Lisa Talia Moretti

For more than a decade, Lisa has researched and written about the relationship between technology, information and society for a diverse range of organisations across public, private and third sector. In addition to her role at Ministry of Justice, Lisa is an Associate Lecturer at Goldsmiths, Plymouth and Cardiff Universities.

In 2020, Lisa was named by BIMA as one of Britain's 100 people who are shaping the British digital industry in the category Champion for Change. She is a member of the AI Council for the British Interactive Media Association (BIMA), a taskforce member for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Blockchain Cities and the Co-Chair of Sovrin Foundation's Guardianship working group. Her TEDx talk, Technology is not a product, it's a system, is available for viewing on TED.com

Mark Nicholas

Mark Nicholas is a Non-Executive Director on the Socitm Board and the Chief Social Worker and Social Care Lead at NHS Digital. Following an early career in the Royal Navy, Mark worked in local authority adult and children's social care, established the previous government's Sure Start initiative, aimed at children under 5 and their parents, and has been Chief Social Worker at NHS Digital for the past 5 years.

At NHSD, Mark is the strategic lead for social care digital and data programmes and clinical lead for the NHS website, the NHS App and the Child Protection Information Sharing system. He is an advocate for systemic approaches to supporting citizens and patients and sees digital integration as a key driver.

David Ogden

David is a senior marketing and communications manager with more than 25 years' experience within the public and private sector.

He trained as a journalist with the National Council Training of Journalists in 1997, before working on various regional weekly and daily newspapers. David joined the Civil Service in 2002, as PR & communications manager for the Air Cadet Organisation, based at Royal Air Force Cranwell in Lincolnshire. On promotion, he joined the RAF recruitment marketing team as digital media manager.

After gaining his marketing diploma with the Chartered Institute of Marketing in 2008, David was promoted to lead RAF Recruit marketing as Head of Marketing. A post which he held for seven years before moving into local government as communications manager for South Holland District Council. Following a spell in a private digital tech firm, he joined Socitm as its communications manager in May 2020.

Rebecca Page-Tickle

Rebecca Page-Tickell PFHEA is a Business Psychologist and HRM/HRD Practitioner. An Associate Professor of educational innovation she is Director of Education and Experience at the Royal Docks school of Business and Law. She has a passionate interest in Justice and Fairness, which has led her to researching the gig economy, trust and conflict in the workplace as well as ways of supporting all students to thrive, particularly those who face the most barriers. An author, she enjoys writing both academic, professional and more personal pieces.

Owen Pritchard

Owen leads the Local Government Association's Cyber, Digital and Technology programme. Owen has worked in security and management for over 20 years and started specializing in information management and cyber security over a decade ago as a cyber-security policy advisor to the then Chief of the General Staff. He has augmented his professional experience with intermittent postgraduate study; first at Cranfield University, then Manchester Business School and latterly the British Computer Society and the Said Business School at the University of Oxford. Owen is also currently Joint Deputy Leader of Merton London Borough Council and the Cabinet Member for Economy, Performance and Recovery.

Shampa Roy-Mukherjee

Dr Shampa Roy-Mukherjee is an Associate Professor and the Director of Impact and Innovation at the Royal Docks School of Business and Law, University of East London. Shampa is the Co-Director of the STAMP Research Centre (Centre for the Study of States, Markets and People) and is the Co-Director of the Institute of Government and Public Policy at UEL. She set up the Tax & Accountancy Clinic during the COVID-19 lockdown (May 2020) to support local communities and businesses in East London. She is part of the Living Wage Place Action Group for the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone.

Siraj Sait

Prof. Siraj Sait is a human rights lawyer and development expert with experience of working with the UN, governments and businesses. He is currently Co-chair, UN Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE), and member of the UN Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI). A graduate of Madras, Harvard and London universities, he is professor of law and development at the Royal Docks School of Business and Law, University of East London.

As Director of the Noon Centre for Equality and Diversity, he is leading UN projects on capacity development, economic regeneration, youth and gender, climate change and land rights. His research was highly ranked for impact at REF, the last UK research rankings. He has helped draft policies and carried out training in over 20 countries including Egypt, Indonesia, Liberia, Morocco, Somalia and Saudi Arabia. Sait works closely with East London communities and several global campaigns on sustainable development.

Dave Sanderson

Throughout a distinguished career, Dave has worked within the ICT sector in a variety of high-level sales and account management positions across local government and Health with 10+ years of experience. Renowned for his expertise and collaboration, Dave has extensive experience of developing strategic relationships with senior leaders and influencers across the public sector. He has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the strategies, constraints and policies, and day to day challenges public sector face in today's environment.

At Soctim, Dave continues to focus on collaboration - bringing together people and place, ensuring Socitm is a vital part in helping to achieve better outcomes for all. Dave's wider responsibilities include work on Inclusion, service delivery and development. Dave is also the Secretary for East & West Midlands regions.

Sam Smith

As President of Socitm Sam is keen to share experiences and collaborate across the public sector and leads the 'Covid 19 Recovery' Policy theme to develop an ethical, place-based model for recovery, resilience and regeneration.

In her role as Assistant Director of IT & Digital Services Sam draws on her extensive experience across multiple local authorities. She is passionate about getting the best out of IT for maximum business benefit she leads and develops the IT & Digital teams to do just that with a pragmatic approach to defining IT Strategy to deliver increased business results.

Paul Timmers

Prof Dr Paul Timmers is research associate at the University of Oxford (Oxford Internet Institute), professor at European University Cyprus, visiting professor at TU Vienna and KU Leuven, senior advisor to EPC Brussels, board member of Digital Enlightenment Forum and the Estonian eGovernance Academy.

He was Director at the European Commission for cybersecurity, e-ID, digital privacy, digital health, smart cities, e-government, cabinet member of European Commissioner Liikanen, manager in a large ICT company and co-founded an ICT start-up. He holds a physics PhD from Nijmegen University, MBA from Warwick University, EU fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill, cybersecurity qualification from Harvard.

Kate Walker

Kate Walker is the Digital Programme Director for Suffolk & North East Essex (SNEE) ICS, the East Accord Lead and the Co-author of the Digital Ethics Charter www.ethicscharter.co.uk @TheValueofIMT

Kate, a former CIO, has worked in the NHS in the East of England for 20 years supporting frontline digitisation and transformation. Having spent the last 4 years within the SNEE STP (now ICS) central team, she developed the SNEE Digital Roadmap; the SNEE ICS Digital Strategy and delivery programme, and formed the East Accord, a collaborative network of digital leaders operating across, beyond and within six ICSs.

Kate was recently voted onto the Digital Health CIO Council, and is an active member of the Editorial Group. She completed the Nye Bevan Leadership Programme and in 2021 graduated from the Yale and HEE Global Healthcare Leadership Initiative following a successful field project considering barriers to digital literacy. She is in the process of supporting ICS Transition in Suffolk and North East Essex and forming an East Accord Skills Development Network.

Paul Waller

Paul carries out academic research at Bradford on the use of IT in the public sector. He is also undertaking research, advisory, and speaking engagements on the topic for international bodies, national public authorities, and companies through Thorney Isle Research. He started his career in the telecommunications industry, leading an AI R&D group, moving on to be an IT industry analyst and managing director of an international IT consulting company prior to joining the UK Civil Service. There he held a number of IT-related policy and strategy posts. Paul is a Chartered Manager and Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

Jackie Weaver

Jackie has been involved in the Local Council Sector for over 25 years as a councillor, a clerk and (until the present day) Chief Officer for the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

Jackie delivers support, information, guidance and training to the 234 Local Councils of Cheshire. She holds the Certificate of Local Council Administration (CiLCA) a BSc in Counselling and is a qualified Mediator. Jackie believes that ultimately it is people that make the difference in any situation.

Since a video of a Local Council Meeting that Jackie was facilitating went viral, she has enjoyed many public engagements and media appearances. She has a

well-received podcast (@jackieweaverpod) and has written a little book of common sense – (You do have the authority here).

Through the media, Jackie has encouraged greater awareness and participation in Local Democracy and in particular promoting greater diversity in the sector.