

25th Anniversary of National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal: Time for a new national programme of regeneration and renewal?

Monday 13th – Tuesday 14th November 2023

Participant Biographies



Mr Stephen Aldridge, CB

Stephen is Director for Analysis and Data at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

A government economist by background, he has also worked in the Department of Trade and Industry (now the Department for Business and Trade); various predecessors to his current department; the Cabinet Office; and Her Majesty's Treasury.

Amongst other things, Stephen is a founding trustee and Board member of the Centre for Homelessness Impact; a member of the Public Policy Committee of the British Academy; a fellow and Council member of the Academy of Social Sciences; and a continuing fellow and Advisory Board member at the Centre for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge.

Stephen was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) in the Queen's birthday honours list 2007.



Mr Steven Barclay

Steven is a social researcher with a PhD in the history of media and education policy. He has worked in the academic, charity and media sectors. He has published research on policy and history of journalism, media regulation, education and literacy. He currently works on analysing evidence for community led development programmes for Local Trust.



Ms Margaret Bolton

Margaret is Director of Policy and Communications at Local Trust. She has worked in a number of high profile policy, campaigning and communications roles including at NCVO and Arts Council England. She ran the campaign to get an equal share of lottery proceeds for charities and has led influential programmes of work on charity taxation – which significantly extended reliefs – and the reform of charity law. The last of these led to a Prime Minister's Strategy Unit project to which she was seconded as Voluntary Sector Advisor. Before joining Local Trust she was a consultant for a number of years working primarily on social investment, social innovation and charity effectiveness undertaking research and writing numerous reports including the report for the Calouste Gulbenkian Inquiry into the Civic Role of Arts Organisations.



Mr Daniel Crowe

Daniel is Local Trust's Policy and Parliamentary Manager, acting as secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for 'left behind' neighbourhoods. He is currently managing the APPG's work and research programme and its inquiry into levelling up.

With a background in the UK co-operative movement, policy and communications for local and city regional government, and research for think tanks working on public services and community empowerment, his work at Local Trust leading on policy around 'left behind' neighbourhoods draws on his professional experience, personal interests and history of community activism and neighbourhood governance.



Mr Mike Crowhurst

Mike leads work for Public First - a policy, research, opinion and strategy consultancy – on levelling up and skills. This includes recent projects linked to neighbourhood renewal for Local Trust, the New Social Covenant Unit, Historic England and UK Finance. He joined Public First after four years working as a Special Adviser on policy in 10 Downing Street, the Cabinet Office and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. He was previously Director of Education at New Schools Network, overseeing support for free schools across the country, and a history teacher in inner-city Birmingham.



Professor Bobby Duffy

Bobby is Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Policy Institute. He has worked across most public policy areas in his career of 30 years in policy research and evaluation, including being seconded to the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit.

Bobby sits on several advisory boards including Charing both the Campaign for Social Science and the CLOSER Advisory Board.

His first book, *The Perils of Perception – Why we're wrong about nearly everything*, draws on a set of global studies on how people misperceive key social realities. His latest book, *Generations - Does when you're born shape who you are?*, came out in September 2021 and challenges myths and stereotypes around generational trends, seeking a greater understanding around generational challenges.



Mrs Freda Eyden

Freda has lived in Sale, Greater Manchester, since 1979 and worked in a local Primary School for 25 years, specialising in Environmental education. Upon retirement in 2013, she was invited to join the Steering Group to set up Our Sale West Big Local, one of 150 nationwide resident-led community groups supported by Local Trust in a National Lottery-funded programme. A Board member since 2015, she has been Co-Chair for six years, specialising in working on Youth and Environmental projects in our area, including organising two Youth Conferences involving six local schools. She is passionate about giving residents of all ages a voice, plus the confidence, knowledge and tools to improve their lives.



Mr Alan Fraser

Alan currently serves as the Director of Community Partnerships and Income Generation at Cranford Community College.

With over 25 years of experience working in West London, Alan has made significant contributions to education and community development throughout his career.

He has played a pivotal role in cultivating a strong and thriving community both at school and in the wider community. Alan actively works to address the social and cultural capital deficit by creating opportunities for individuals and uplift the entire community.

Alan collaborated with local MP Seema Malhotra to establish a charity called Hounslow's Promise, which provides essential support to youth in the community. Currently, he serves as a trustee and vice-chair of the organisation. Before his role as Chair of C-Change West London, Alan served as the Chair of Heston West Big Local for nine years, gaining extensive experience in successful community engagement.

Alan sits on the advisory board of an international organisation called One World Strong, which provides support to survivors of violent extremism. Together with the founder of OWS, Dave Fortier, Alan initiated two global initiatives: One World Marathon and One World Football, harnessing the power of sports to foster positive change and unity.

Alan is part of the European Union's Radicalisation Awareness Network pool of experts. His expertise has led him to contribute to various initiatives, including a podcast for the UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) on the role of sports in countering violent extremism. In 2021, Alan was commissioned by the European Union to co-write a report called the Manifesto for Education, which explores emerging trends and threats in the field.

Mr Adam Hawksbee



Adam is Deputy Director of the centre-right think tank Onward. His work focuses on increasing economic growth and strengthening communities across the UK, and he has published research on a range of topics including empowering regional mayors, tackling antisocial behaviour and reforming technical education. He was previously Head of Policy to Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands. Adam is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where he was a Kennedy Fellow, and has worked with US Mayors as a Research Fellow at the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative and during a period at the New York City Mayor's Office of Operations.



Ms Madeleine Jennings

Before joining Local Trust in June 2023, Madeleine led on public affairs for the Joint Council for Qualifications and the British Association of Social Workers. Her volunteer roles have included chairing the Alliance for Children in Care and Care Leavers, SEND link governor for a maintained nursery school in a deprived area and trustee of her local neighbourhood forum. Having begun her career in and around Westminster, her work has taken her around the country and developed Madeleine's overriding interest in getting the public involved in making public policy whether through traditional campaigning or the latest developments in deliberative democracy.



Mr Angus Johnson

Angus was the Chief Executive of Clapham Park Project NDC from 2006-2011 after which he was appointed as the Chief Executive of its successor body, a resident led charity. Following a short spell in advertising he began his career at Toynbee Hall in East London running a number of Community Programmes. He then moved into local government and went on to manage a range of neighbourhood renewal initiatives including Inner Area Programmes, ESF projects and Brixton City Challenge's Employment and Enterprise strand. He also managed a major SRB programme in the Hayes and West Drayton corridor for Hillingdon Council. Having worked in regeneration for over 20 years Angus has learned that effective community engagement is the cornerstone of successful programmes.



Mrs Kate Jopling

Kate Jopling is a policy and strategy consultant and advisor to the Campaign to End Loneliness. She has extensive experience across the fields of health, care and ageing and has authored influential reports for organisations including Age UK, National Voices and the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness. Kate is a former Director of the International Longevity Centre and the Campaign to End Loneliness, and Head of Public Affairs for Help the Aged. Her campaigning work to secure a ban on age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services was recognised with five major awards.



Mr Matt Leach

Matt is Chief Executive of Local Trust, the Lottery-funded endowment supporting long-term place-based, community-led change in 150 deprived neighbourhoods across England. Over the last decade, Local Trust has drawn on its work to pioneer new thinking about social infrastructure, neighbourhood regeneration and the challenges associated with turning around our most left-behind communities. Prior to that, Matt led social housing innovation agency HACT, was an associate director at think tank ResPublica and has held a range of senior leadership roles across the public sector, including civil society funder Capacitybuilders, the Housing Corporation, Cabinet Office and a range of other Whitehall departments and delivery agencies.



Mr Ben Lee

Ben has been involved in public policy research and development for 25 years. Much of his work relates to community renewal and public services at the neighbourhood level. He is currently on the senior team at the consultancy Shared Intelligence most often engaged in designing research, supporting organisations to evidence impact, conducting policy review, and facilitating peer learning. He works with community volunteers, public sector professionals, and elected representatives. He has also ended up being an expert on public libraries. He was a founding trustee of Local Trust from 2012 to 2020.



Dame Sara Llewellyn, DBE

Sara is the Chief Executive of the Barrow Cadbury Trust. Her career has included ten years as Deputy Director of City Bridge Trust. Before that, she had a career in operating charities including as Chief Executive of St Giles Trust in London and before that, ran a network of women's refuge provision in South London.

Sara is the Chair of the Philea's Diversity, Migration and Integration Network of foundations in Europe and has served on a number of boards including Lottery distributors, Futurebuilders England, Charity Bank, the efc and the Association of Charitable Foundations. Her background is in activism, particularly in the

domestic violence and equality movements and in local social enterprise and community family provision.

The Barrow Cadbury Trust is the largest philanthropic foundation of the Cadbury family. With strong Quaker roots, we seek structural changes in the areas of economic, racial, gender and criminal justice. We are very active in the responsible finance movement and in developing the social investment market, strengthening civil society and advancing philanthropy.

All the Trust's work is seen through race and gender justice lenses and the commitment to racial justice is many decades old. We have played a strong part in the creation of the Funders for Race Equality Alliance and on racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system. We are currently working on migrant justice, on tackling anti-Muslim sentiment and other forms of hatred, decolonising our endowment and using it as active shareholders.

Sara was made a Dame in the Birthday Honours List 2021 for services to social justice.



Ms Katy Lock

Katy leads on the TCPA's campaigns and promotion of garden city principles in policy, legislation, education and the arts. This involves working with all levels of government and with a wide range of public, private and third sector organisations and individuals, at all stages of planning, design and delivery. Katy has co-authored two books on Garden Cities & New Towns for RIBA Publishing and is currently leading TCPA's work on long-term stewardship. A Chartered Town Planner with a background in Urban Design and Sustainability, Katy is also a Trustee for Planning Aid for London and the International Federation for Housing & Planning.



Ms Lucy Makinson

Lucy is Head of Policy for the Behavioural Insights Team & Nesta. She leads the organisations' Rapid Insights Team, which brings together new research and expertise from both organisations to address pressing policy challenges. As part of this role she is currently working with Meta and the RSA to measure social capital across the UK and develop policies to foster social capital. She was previously the senior research lead for BIT's Singapore office, where she led a programme of work with the Ministry for Culture, Community and Youth.



Ms Meaghan Malloy

Meaghan is a PhD candidate in Education, Practice and Society at the Institute of Education (IOE), University College London's Faculty of Education and Society. Her research focuses on influencing policy and practice at the intersection of education, gender and development, with a focus on education measurement.

Meaghan's dissertation is investigating the role of education in developing and measuring 'youth agency', both individually and collectively, and exploring, through empirical investigation in Central America, its potential contributions to achieving gender equality and inclusive education. Her research utilises the capability approach, feminist literature, and youth-led and participatory methods.

Meaghan has ten years of professional experience as an education and international development practitioner working in Latin America, the Middle East and East Africa. She brings a decade of passion and commitment to advancing quality and inclusive education, particularly for marginalised girls and young women. Meaghan has worked and consulted for various international organisations, foundations and nonprofits including UNICEF, UNDP, Glasswing Intentional and Education Development Trust. She holds an Advanced Diploma in Monitoring & Evaluation (NYU, 2017), a MPhil in Public Policy (Cambridge, 2016), and a BA in International Studies (Johns Hopkins, 2010).



Mrs Clare Monaghan

Clare is the Executive Director of Policy and Strategic Development at South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. Clare is responsible for policy direction, strategic planning, external engagement with Government, partners and communities, communication, environment and health.

Clare has worked in local and regional government for the last 16 years with particular experience in policing and community safety at Greater Manchester Authority where she was a Director for six years prior to joining SYMCA.



Mr Chris Murray

Chris is CEO of the Young Brent Foundation. The Foundation aims to create an evidence based, needs led community partnership model that unites a diverse voluntary youth sector, and creates a strong united voice, equipping members with the training, resources and financial support they need to increase overall capacity and develop a more sustainable future to benefit young people.

Chris is an Alumni of the Nationally recognised 'Black, Asian Leadership Initiative' (BALI) and on the Board of the KPMG Foundation, Chair of CVS Brent and had a 35year career in Senior roles across seven Local Authorities.

Chris has developed Cultural Competency Programme designs with Impetus, Met Police, LB Hackney and L B Brent to improve outcomes for diverse communities and act as a convenor for the Black Community to improve understanding of systemic inequalities and the EDI assessment tool to reform system change to understand and improve practice.



Professor Sarah Pearson

Sarah is a Professor of Social Policy Research at the Centre for Regional Economic Research and Director of the Social and Economic Research Institute (SERI) at Sheffield Hallam University.

She has led projects for national and local government and UK charities and foundations. Recent work includes evaluation of place-based approaches to supporting young people at risk of knife crime and violence (Youth Endowment Fund), the Early Action Neighbourhood Fund (National Lottery Community Fund), and Children's Communities (Save the Children UK). Between 2001 and 2010, she was Deputy Director of the ten-year evaluation of the New Deal for Communities Programme.



Professor Marc Stears

Marc is an internationally regarded academic, political strategist, speechwriter and executive educator, who specialises in creating dynamic collaborations between academic researchers and broader society. Currently the inaugural Director of the UCL Policy Lab, Marc has previously been Director of the Sydney Policy Lab at the University of Sydney, CEO of the New Economics Foundation, Professor of political theory at the University of Oxford and chief speechwriter to the UK Labour Party. He enjoys a worldwide reputation as a leadership coach and communications strategist, having supported Board and Executive Committee members for major organisations including for some of the world's largest companies. He is the author of several books from the world's leading presses, including *Out of the Ordinary* published by Harvard University Press in 2021. Along with his co-author Tom Baldwin, he has just completed a new book entitled *England: Seven Myths that Changed a Nation and How to Set them Straight*, due out from Bloomsbury in April 2024.



Professor Peter Tyler

Peter is Emeritus Professor in Urban and Regional economics in the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge and Emeritus Professorial Fellow at St. Catharine's College. He has an extensive track record in undertaking research on the evaluation of public policy. He has been a Project Director for over seventy major research projects for Government, many involving the evaluation of public policy and twenty five of book length. He has also undertaken research for the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on urban, regional, industrial and evaluation policy, been an Expert

Advisor to UN Habitat III and served on the National Evaluation Panel for Sure Start. He has recently published 'Evaluating Area-Based Policies using Secondary Data: the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders', directed a research project for Local Trust on Creating Positive Economic Opportunities for Communities and published, with colleagues, a book on Levelling-Up Left Behind Places; The Scale and Nature of the Economic and Policy Challenge (Routledge, 2021).



Mr Taz Virdee

Taz is a dedicated community leader with 15 years of experience in non-profit, environmental, housing, and education sectors, serving Hounslow, Hillingdon, and Ealing. He passionately supports disadvantaged communities, young people, residents, and local organisations, committed to fostering positive change.

His expertise covers community engagement, project, events and grant management, programme coordination, and volunteer, youth, and community development. As Chief Executive of C-Change West London, Taz strives to continue the Big Local's legacy by providing a platform for local individuals to grow their skills, gain experience, build stronger community bonds, and make a positive impact in their areas.

For more information about C-Change West London please visit: www.ccwl.org.uk and Heston West Big Local, please visit: www.hestonwest.org.



Mr Samuel Wairimu

Samuel is a food systems doctoral researcher at the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich under the United Kingdom Food Systems – Centre for Doctoral Training programme funded by the UKRI. His research interests include food policy, food environments, evidence generation, and the application of systems thinking and interdisciplinary approaches to food systems challenges.

For his Ph.D., Samuel's research investigates how children and adolescents in deprived areas in London interact with their food environments and the subsequent impact on their diets and health outcomes. By exploring this area, he aims to contribute valuable insights that can shape future strategies for promoting healthier lifestyles among young individuals.

Samuel has over ten years of experience in business development, private-sector development consulting, and interdisciplinary food systems research. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Nairobi and an MSc (with distinction) in Agriculture and Development from the University of Reading which was funded by the FCDO through the Chevening Scholarship.