

Refining architecture for a long-term education planning in England

Monday 4th – Tuesday 5th December 2023

Biographies



Emma Balchin

Emma has over 25 years' experience in education, leadership and school improvement. She has significant experience in maintained school and academy governance, as well as serving as an Interim Executive Board (IEB) member and mentoring others.

From September 2023, Emma is sharing the chief executive role with Emma Knights, each working three days a week. Emma also oversees NGA's Professional Development services, ensuring they respond to the sector's emerging needs and impact positively upon standards of governance. Her expertise also lies in supporting NGA's broader membership base and scoping potential projects with new and existing partners.



Rosie Clayton

Rosie is a researcher, writer, social entrepreneur, policy specialist, community builder and activist. In education, she leads a range of high profile research and innovation projects across education, skills, lifelong learning, edtech and systems change, working on both UK and international initiatives. Rosie is the Head of Rethinking Assessment, a UK and global movement to transform the way we teach and assess young people. She is also a Research Fellow with the Global Education Leaders Partnership and the World Innovation Summit for Education leading work on learning ecosystems in the Middle East and Global South. Previously, she was part of the founding team setting up Studio Schools in England, and was an Associate Director at the Royal Society of Arts leading the design and launch of the Cities of Learning program.



Dame Julia Cleverdon, DCVO CBE

Dame Julia is a passionate and practical campaigner who has gained an international reputation for 'connecting the unconnected', inspiring individuals and organisations to work together for the common good in the most challenged communities.

During her tenure as Chief Executive of Business in the Community from 1991 to 2007, Julia worked closely with the President HM The King in building a movement of 850 member companies. Julia later served as Special Adviser to The Prince's Charities and focused efforts on disadvantaged communities.

Julia co-founded Step Up To Serve (#iwill), a campaign which was set up to make meaningful social action a part of life for young people across the UK and chairs the #iwill Partnership Board. As Chair of Teach First from 2007 to 2014, and now Vice Patron, Julia has pioneered efforts to address educational disadvantage. She serves on the Careers and Enterprise Company board, is Deputy Chair of the Fair Education Alliance, and served as chair of the National Literacy Trust from 2013 to 2022. She is Patron of Right to Succeed and chairs Place Matters and the National Statistician's Committee on Inclusive Data.



Michelle Coe-Storer

Area of expertise – Recruitment and retention within schools and MATs.

Background/Experience in relation to Consultation topic: 24 Years at Hays, partnering with schools across the UK, managing permanent recruitment and supporting with staff retention. Also involved with the design and delivery of training and CPD. Prior to working at Hays, I taught Psychology and Sports Science from A Level through to Undergraduate Degree level.



Lewis Cooper

Lewis is Director of Public Affairs and Campaigns at the Association of Colleges, the membership body for colleges in England, and Director of The College Alliance, a network which brings together college leaders and senior government officials from across the UK and Ireland. Prior to this, Lewis was Director of the Independent Commission on the College of the Future, a UK-wide review which set out a vision for the role colleges can play for people, productivity and place, with a series of nation-specific and thematic reports. Lewis worked previously for a decade at the National Union of Students, and at two Westminster-based think tanks. In 2021, Lewis chaired one of the inaugural independent Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) quality reviews, for Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board.



Ellie Costello

Ellie enjoyed a successful career in the media working as a producer. She has two children with complex needs spanning education, health, mental health and social care. As a Therapeutic Parent, neuroscience and child development inform Ellie's advocacy and campaigning. She works as an Expert by Experience and strategic partner informing cross-sector service review, redevelopment and delivery across joint-working partners and education.

As Executive Director for Square Peg, Ellie works nationally in policy and practice to effect cultural and systemic change on behalf of all children who experience barriers to school attendance. She was called to give evidence to the Education Select Committee this year and has collaborated with broadcast news (BBC, Sky News) and documentaries (Panorama) to tell the stories of families and professionals struggling in the current system.

She is co-author of the critically acclaimed newly published book "Square Pegs: compassion, inclusion and fitting in - a guide for schools" and is Parliamentary Vice Co-Chair for the Council for Disabled Children's Special Education Consortium. Ellie is a critical thinker, curiosity geek and lifelong learner.



Paul Drechsler

Paul is the Chairman of International Chamber of Commerce (U.K.) President Society of Chemical Industry, Independent Director, Schroders & Co Ltd. He was President of the Confederation of British Industry 2015-2018, Chairman of London First 2018-2022, Chancellor of Teesside University 2017-2022, Chairman Bibby Line Group 2014-2020, Teach First 2013-2019, UK National Skills Funding Agency Advisory Board until September 2015. Paul was previously Chairman & Chief Executive Executive of Wates Group, and 24 years with ICI plc, holding main board and senior positions; living in the UK, Brazil, the USA and the Netherlands. Paul is an engineering graduate from Trinity College Dublin.



Ali Durban

Ali Durban is the co-founder of Gesher, an ambitious all-through school designed especially for children who are differently able and who learn differently. Gesher School has been awarded Ofsted Outstanding twice since it opened in 2017.

Ali is also the founder of the Gesher Assessment Centre, which offers a bespoke multi-disciplinary assessment, diagnosis and report service for children and young people who may have ADHD, Autism, or a range of varying learning differences.

Ali's journey from exhausted SEND parent to co-founder of a thriving school community has transformed her into a ringleader for system-wide transformation. Ali currently co-chairs a SEND council for the Foundation of Education Development which is creating a 10-year plan and vision for UK education. Ali also sits on the Education Council for the Autism Centre of Excellence.



Mattia Emma

Mattia is currently completing a PhD in gravitational wave astronomy at Royal Holloway University of London. Mattia's research focuses on extracting information about the sources of these waves from signals we detect when they pass through our earth-based detectors. This allows us to learn more about the history of the Universe and the behaviour of matter in extreme environments.

An important part of Mattia's life is his engagement in volunteer activities as a teacher of physics, and raising awareness about the difficulties of accessing education around the world. He has founded a non-profit organisation called STudy to transFORM to assist in these activities, especially in Italy and Kenya.



Kate Fahey

15+ years of working in corporate communications both in-house and as a client facing consultant for large professional services firms like PwC and McKinsey & Company. Recently went freelance, and now provide writing, editing, content creation and communications strategy support to a wide range of international clients. Married, with two school-aged children aged 10 and 8, and currently studying part-time for another Masters, so a very vested and passionate interest in FED and the great work it does.



Alastair Falk

Alastair's career has encompassed three Headships; work on education strategy at a local and national level and setting up of new education organisations. His first Headship was a single form entry primary, after which he moved to become the founding Head of a new secondary school in North East London, before becoming Principal of one of the first Academies, an all age school that included primary, secondary and SEN provision. He has also worked as Director of the Reed Foundation's Academy of Enterprise, where he designed the first national GCSE level qualification in Enterprise Capabilities, Director of Educational Leadership for a national education charity and CEO of the Birmingham Education Partnership. His role in FED includes developing the online FEDspace events and the programme for the FED summits.



Sam Freedman

Sam is a senior fellow at the Institute for Government and writes regularly on politics and policy for numerous outlets as well as his substack newsletter 'Comment is Freed' which has over 40,000 subscribers. Previously he was an executive director at Teach First and worked at the Department for Education as a senior policy adviser. Sam is also a senior adviser to the education charity Ark; Vice-Chair of Ambition Institute; and a trustee of the Holocaust Educational Trust.



Narinder Gill

Narinder Gill is a distinguished educational leader with a rich history spanning over two decades, having steered the success of three schools as head teacher. Her recent publication, "Creating Change in Urban Settings," illuminates her expertise in curriculum and leadership development, especially in challenging contexts. Currently serving as Strategic Director for the Curriculum Foundation, Narinder extends her influence globally, supporting schools, government bodies, and ministries. Her impactful contributions also extend to South Sudan, where she has been instrumental in curriculum development since 2015. Presently, she dedicates four days a week to her role as the School Improvement Director for Elevate Multi-academy Trust.



Ian Gleeson

Ian Gleeson is Director of Communications for Europe at McKinsey & Company. He joined McKinsey in 2010 and, prior to his current role, has led the firm's communication teams in the UK and across the Former Soviet Union, Middle East and Africa.

Before that he spent 15 years with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, working on a wide range of political and economic issues, with postings in East Africa and Russia. Between 2004 and 2007 he worked in the Press Office in 10 Downing Street.

Ian has degrees from the University of Cambridge and the University of East Anglia.

He has been engaged in education issues for many years and is a member of Business in the Community's Employment and Education Leadership Taskforce.



Kerri Hall

Kerri is an independent consultant specialising in the education and youth sectors. She trained as a teacher and has worked in graduate recruitment, and held senior positions at regional and national charities, including the #iwill campaign. She's passionate about bringing diverse voices and experiences together around issues that matter, with a particular interest in supporting young people to co-create change with those in power. She is the Founding Director of My Place - an award-winning initiative that brings together young people and developers to create more inclusive and equitable regeneration projects. She's Vice Chair of her local primary school and lives in London with her partner and two young sons.



Claudia Harris

Claudia is the CEO of Makers, the UK's leading alternative tech training company. Her previous experience includes working as a partner at McKinsey & Company and founding The Careers & Enterprise Company. She worked in Tony Blair's Delivery Unit and on the board of the 30% Club. She is passionate about helping people find work that they love and making tech more inclusive. She has an undergraduate degree from Oxford and an MBA from Harvard. She lives in Highbury with her husband and two small children.



Leila Lai

Leila Lai is a final-year undergraduate student from the Institute of Education, University College London, studying Psychology with Education. She is the campus director for Millennium Fellowship (a social impact programme initiated by United Nations Academic Impact) at the UCL branch. She has multiple research experiences in digital education when she worked as research assistant for Tsinghua University Lifelong Learning Lab. She also has two research experiences in social and cultural psychology when she worked as research assistant at UCL.



Ann Limb

Ann's first career was in the public sector – in education and the civil service. She spent 25 years in adult and further education serving for ten years as Principal in Milton Keynes and five years in Cambridge. At the turn of the 21st century, she went on to head up the UK government's flagship digital learning initiatives, learndirect and UK online, and the national e-services citizens programme gov.uk, before moving into the private sector in 2005. She worked as a government adviser in the UK and overseas, led in the Departments for Education and Business Innovation & Skills on the setting up the online learning service unionlearn and advised on the creation of online citizens services in a range of overseas nations.

As a business leader, Ann has been the independent chair of the UK Innovation Corridor since 2017. This is the country's leading scitech region stretching from London to Cambridge. She took on this role after an 8-year stint between 2011-2019, as Chair of the country's top performing Local Enterprise Partnership, South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP). Ann is one of only a handful of women nationally to have chaired a LEP. Since 2014, she also served as Chair of ENTRUST, the national regulator of the government's environmental tax credit scheme, the Landfill Communities Fund and held a number of public and private sector non-executive directorships. These include between 2005 – 2011 Chair of Milton Keynes Partnership – the successor body to the Milton Keynes Development Corporation that established the new town in 1967 – and from 2011 – 2018, Board member at Homes England – a Ministerial appointment.

In the 2011 Birthday Honours, Ann was awarded the OBE for work in education and in 2015 'upgraded' to CBE for public and political services. Since 2011, she has been Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, where she has lived since 1986, and whence hails her wife Maggie. They were married after 33 years of partnership, in a Quaker wedding, held on 11 May 2019. Ann is High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in nomination and will assume office in March 2023. In 2019, Ann was named #1 LGBTQ+ public sector role model in the OUTstanding List and one of the 50 most influential women born in the North of England in the Northern Power Women Power List.



Jo Malone

Jo is passionate about the transformative power of education. Following 15 years in the classroom as a secondary teacher, AST, curriculum and pastoral leader, Jo worked as Senior Education Adviser and Senior Project Manager at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change for ten years. She was privileged to build and develop networks of stakeholders including policy makers, educational leaders and educators across 60 plus countries working on various projects focused on community cohesion, dialogue and combating extremism.

At the FED Jo led the 2021-22 national consultation and co-authored the subsequent report. This year she has led on the consultation project between the FED and the OECD on education for human flourishing, the FED's work on climate change and sustainability,

alongside working up long-term planning mechanisms and methodologies in education policy making for the 2023 report.

Jo's consultation work outside of the FED sees her working on character and democratic education. Jo is co-founder of WECAN, a women consultants and advisers in education group, she is the Global Education Policy Advisor for Persona Education, an Advisor for Curriculum For Life, A Salzburg Global Fellow and a primary school governor.



Jane Mann

Jane Mann is Managing Director of the Cambridge Partnership for Education, which works with governments and international development organisations to support programmes of education transformation at system level, supported by the collective knowledge and global network of the University of Cambridge. She is also the newly appointed Education Director for International Education at Cambridge University Press & Assessment, heading up policy, impact, and thought leadership for the division.

Jane has worked in the education sector for over 25 years, advising on, implementing and managing programmes of system-level change and improvement, across diverse contexts, including Education in Emergencies. She has worked with governments, NGOs, donor agencies and other education organisations and funding partners to support large-scale system transformation through to targeted specific interventions. Jane has also worked outside the education sector, consulting and training on regulatory frameworks, trade publishing strategy, communications and process redesign. Speaker at events such as Education World Forum, London Book Fair, Transforming Education Summit (UNGA77), Global Online Learning Alliance and the Global Education Summit. Cambridge founder of the UNICEF Learning Passport initiative. Member of the Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement (University of Cambridge) and BESA Executive Council member. Recipient of the Kazakh Order of Friendship for services to Kazakh education and culture (Dostyk). School governor.



Rania Marandos

Dr Marandos is an independent consultant in the non-profit sector and National Director for the Foundation of Education Development. She believes in the power of young people and collaboration to achieve lasting system change.

Rania started her career at the London Probation Service and then focused on large-scale capability building programmes at McKinsey & Company. As Head of Strategy at Teach First, she led on shaping the charity's renewed vision and strategy with multi-stakeholder involvement, resulting in the development of ambitious collective goals to address educational inequity that the Fair Education Alliance is working towards achieving. Rania was a founding team member and later Chief Executive of Step Up To Serve, the time-limited charity that coordinated the #iwill campaign until 2020. She enabled organisations from all sectors to work in partnership with young people to solve our most pressing societal challenges.

Rania is Trustee of United Learning Trust and London Bubble Theatre Company and a mentor to charity leaders through the Cranfield Trust. She has a BSc and PhD in Psychology from the University of York.

Gabrielle Matthews



Gabrielle is a multi-award-winning children and young people's (CYP) advocate. A long-term patient, she role models the inclusion of patients in strategic decision-making as a member of the NHS Assembly. She sits as an Oversight Board member to the Research and Economic Analysis for the Long-term (REAL) centre at the Health Foundation and is a member of the General Advisory Council at the King's Fund.

Her advocacy work extends beyond healthcare; She is a partnership board member of the #iwill movement and a trustee of UK Youth. She is a vocal advocate for education that extends beyond the classroom and for the need for rigorous support for all CYP.

Gabrielle is an academic foundation doctor in North Central London with an interest in co-production and power in both research and policy development, her current work centres on the experiences of CYP with mental health conditions, admitted onto paediatric wards.

Paul Matthias



Paul was one of the original team to create Hays Education in 1999, part of the global Hays PLC group offering solutions for recruitment, consultancy and training.

Hays is uniquely placed to support schools and MATs across all central functions, drawing upon industry-leading recruitment expertise from ECT to CEO, research, and thought leadership within Education, Finance, HR, IT, Estates and sustainability; in addition to a well-developed experience in supporting schools across the UK. Paul was key in the development of Hays Education Hub which is accessed by more than 6,000 schools, offering free access to a complimentary LMS, wellbeing training, and Inspire offering 'World of Work' lesson plans for primary and secondary pupils. Paul studied Business, Management and Marketing at IMD, Hult Ashridge and ILMP, his areas of expertise include: Recruitment, Marketing, Education Careers and Employer Value Proposition.

Essie North



Essie is Big Change's CEO and oversees their work across three drivers of transformation in education and learning: shifting purpose, power and practice so we set up all young people to thrive in life, not just exams.

Essie's focus has been change and transformation in different forms throughout her career. Her background in neuroscience was originally applied through 10 years in strategy consulting working with the leaders of 500 top global businesses around how to rethink leadership and organisational change.

Big Change are rethinking charity as a catalyst for long term change, supporting a new wave of leaders with bold ideas to show that a new way is possible and working with global allies to change the conversation (and action) around education and learning.

Shaun Odili



Shaun was a Policy Analyst at the Bank of England, a project advisory board member for The Young Foundation, the 2022 Y20 youth employment delegate for the UK and is a member of the FED Learners Council. He was born in Nigeria but grew up in London and has keen interests in sports, fitness, music and cooking. He is passionate about education and the necessity to create an education system that is more skills focused and is suited to the requirements of the modern world.



Selina Pavan

Selina is a Director in the Global Markets Technology organization and is responsible for Architecture Governance.

Selina gained a Computing MEng in 2000 at Imperial College, London. Prior to joining Bank of America she worked at Goldman Sachs and in the Hedge Fund Industry.

She was recognized as a Bank of America Global Diversity & Inclusion Award winner for her collaboration with Stemettes in 2013 and in 2018 for leading efforts in the EMEA Women in Technology & Operations employee network.

She sits on the Board of Trustees for Stemette Futures, a UK charity, which encourages female students to consider a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Selina is also an advocate for Code First Girls, who provide free technology education to women. She also sits on the business advisory council for the Foundation for Education Development.



Alison Peacock

Professor Dame Alison Peacock is Chief Executive of the Chartered College of Teaching, a new Professional Body that seeks to raise our status through celebrating, supporting and connecting teachers to provide expert teaching and leadership. Prior to joining the Chartered College, Dame Alison was Executive Headteacher of The Wroxham School in Hertfordshire. Her career to date has spanned primary, secondary and advisory roles. She is an Honorary Fellow of Queens College Cambridge, Hughes Hall Cambridge and UCL, a Visiting Professor of both the University of Hertfordshire and Glyndŵr University and a trustee for Big Change, Institute for Educational & Social Equity and the Helen Hamlyn Trust. Her research is published in a series of books about Learning without Limits offering an alternative approach to inclusive school improvement.



Jonathan Slater

Jonathan Slater is a Visiting Professor at King's College London and Queen Mary's University London. He sits on the boards of the Charter Schools Educational Trust, Morley College, and Sheffield Hallam University. Jonathan was Permanent Secretary of the Department for Education until 2020, at the conclusion of a 20 year civil service career that included Justice, Defence, the Cabinet Office and No.10. Before that Jonathan worked in local government for over 10 years, ending up as Director of Education and Deputy Chief Executive at Islington Council, though his career actually started as a mathematical modeller for British Rail.



Aimée Tinkler

Aimée has been a teacher for over 20 years during which time she has taught and led in schools in a variety of circumstances and contexts. Aimée is currently School Improvement Partner at the Diocese of Coventry MAT, prior to which she spent 8 years as a teaching Head at a Primary School in the Derbyshire. She has expertise around the challenges and opportunities presented by small and rural schools and advises various national organisations in this area. Aimée works with schools and trusts across the country as a system leader, is President-elect and a Founding Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and is engaged in doctoral research at UCL Institute of Education.



Patrick Wall

FED Trustee: Patrick Wall is the founder of edpol.net, a research project to support better and more enduring policy change. Patrick set up the first Oxford University access program, Target Schools, in 1982 and first became a school governor in 1988. For the last ten years he has been chair of governors at Ark Academy in Wembley. Patrick is a long standing Sutton Trust Fellow.

He has spent thirty five years in business, working in Europe, USA and China. He is founder, and ex-CEO, of a successful European tech company and NED for a tech business, building ethical and sustainable supply chains.

On joining the FED, Patrick said:

"FED is the only organisation 'dedicated to promoting a long-term vision and plan for education in England'. Long-term planning will enable education to fulfil its purpose, while minimising disruption, waste and policy churn. With long-term planning, we can meet our shared goals and essentially, inspire the teachers and lecturers, who we rely on every day to provide the best possible education."



Carl Ward

Carl is Chair of the Foundation for Education Development (FED). He is also Chief Executive of the City Learning Trust; a 3 to 19 Academy Trust in Staffordshire. He has regional, national and international experience in education strategy, leadership development and school to school improvement.



Vanessa Wilson

Vanessa is the Chief Executive of University Alliance (UA) a mission group within the higher education sector representing world-leading professional and technical universities. Our members specialise in working with industry and employers. This means their students are career-ready, and their knowledge and research drive industry to innovate and thrive. Vanessa joined University Alliance in March 2019 from UK Sport, the government's elite sport body where she had been the Director of Commercial and Communications. During her 7 years at UK Sport, Vanessa worked on four Olympic and Paralympic, Summer and Winter Games including the Games hosted in London. Vanessa began her career joining the Civil Service from university where she worked in various government agencies and central government departments including the Employment Service, Department for Education & Employment and latterly the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as a Senior Civil Servant responsible for all departmental Strategic Communications, Campaigns and Marketing.