



Speaker Biographies

Pippa Coutts | Chair | SURF



Pippa is the Manager of the [Alliance for Useful Evidence](#), Nesta: which promotes the increased demand for and use of evidence in social policy, across the UK.

Working at a senior level in Scotland since 20013, Pippa has a longstanding involvement in the development of effective health and social care services. She has been a driver of mental health policy in Scotland, put policy into practice - leading teams and organisations to develop fruitful partnerships and more effectively deliver better health outcomes and increased social return on their investments. Pippa specifically has worked to promote holistic programming, population wellbeing, and the employability and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Previously, Pippa worked for over ten years in international development, firstly as a project manager, and then co-founding a successful international livelihoods consulting company.

Robin McAlpine | Director | Common Weal



Common Weal is a 'think and do tank' which campaigns for a more socially and economically equal society. It has a policy unit, a parliament unit, a social media and news unit and a unit coordinating local groups.

Robin McAlpine is Director of Common Weal. He graduated from Glasgow University and worked as a journalist before becoming Press Officer for the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland in 1996. After a year in London he returned to work as a policy officer on sustainable development policy and then moved to become head of parliamentary and media relations at Universities Scotland for 13 years, leaving as Deputy Director in 2010. He then set up the Jimmy Reid Foundation which he ran until taking on the new role at Common Weal.

Kate Wimpres | Director | North Edinburgh Arts

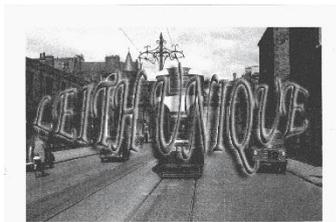


Trained in fine art Kate has worked for arts organisations across Northern Ireland and Scotland since 1990. Currently Director at North Edinburgh Arts Kate previously led Edinburgh's Capital City Partnership *Arts For Inclusion* programme.

North Edinburgh Arts provides opportunities for individual and community development through contact with the professional arts. The organisation is active in the local regeneration process advocating the role of the artist, and creativity as positive forces within the dynamic of a community in flux.

Kate's particular area of interest is how art can change the public realm and public imagination, working with artists whose practice takes them beyond the boundaries of the institution, studio or theatre. She was a founder member of the National Cultural Planning Forum, and currently sits on the boards of Tinderbox Orchestra and North Edinburgh Childcare, as well as that of SURF.

Sandra Marshall | Coordinator | Leith Hub



Sandra worked as a paralegal for over 25 years before embarking on a change of career and setting up a business, Leith Circle, in 2007. The shop situated at the bottom of Leith Walk started as a private business but evolved into a social enterprise and social hub during its 5 years of operation.

Despite facing a number of setbacks the Leith Circle experience helped Sandra realise her passion was for community development, and since moving to Muirhouse has become involved with the North Edinburgh Community Shop, North Edinburgh Timebank, West Pilton Park Action Group. She is also active in the Leith based Feel Fresh Fridays and Dry Dock, with both projects having a focus on those in recovery, or experiencing mental health issues.

Kevin Stewart MSP | Minister for Local Government and Housing | Scottish Government



Kevin Stewart was born in Aberdeen in 1968. He attended Summerhill Academy and then worked in retail including in his family's business.

He was elected to serve on Aberdeen City Council in 1999 and remained as a Councillor until 2012. Kevin was leader of the SNP Group from 1999 until his election to Parliament in 2011. When the Council was in a coalition administration from 2007 to 2012 Kevin held a number of posts including Deputy Council Leader, Convener of Finance and chair of NESTRANS.

Kevin was first elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2011 as the MSP for Aberdeen Central and returned in 2016. He has been both the Convener and Deputy Convener of the Parliament's Local Government and Regeneration Committee and was also a member of the Welfare Reform Committee and the Justice sub-committee for Policing.

Poverty: Our Hidden Shame? | Create Crew | Plantation Productions



Plantation Productions is a creative media charity embedded in Govan, Glasgow, UK.

Create Crew are a group aged from 13 - 18, who made a documentary about the impact of austerity on young people and how it affects their opportunities, aspirations and their community. "Poverty: Our hidden shame?" is the product of nine months of work exploring and challenging the impacts of poverty in the community.

Taking a participatory action research approach, they explored issues they feel passionately about, whilst planning and conducting interviews with a diverse range of contributors and young people to ensure they gained a balanced view. The film was initiated through partnership with the NHS, OXFAM, Plantation Productions and the GalGael Trust.

Andy Milne | Chief Executive | SURF



SURF is Scotland's independent network of regeneration practitioners, policy makers and academics. By sharing and channelling the experience, views and ideas and of its extensive, cross-sector membership of over 250 organisations, SURF helps to inform better policy and practice for more successful and sustainable community regeneration throughout Scotland.

Andy became Chief Executive of SURF in 2003. Prior to that, he spent 10 years as coordinator of the Wester Hailes Representative Council, which was frequently cited as a model of community led innovation and service delivery.

From 1987 to 1992, he was director of the Bathgate Area Initiatives Team, providing support and coordination to the voluntary sector across West Lothian.

Having originally studied Architecture, Andy went into independent community work. From 1980 to 87 he developed the community owned Wester Hailes Management Agency and its 18 diverse, community run local services projects.

He is also a director of the Community Development Alliance Scotland.

Dr. Elaine Cooper | SURF Practice and Learning Coordinator | SURF



Elaine worked for SURF's Alliance for Action in Kirkcaldy and Govan for two years, before joining SURF on staff in 2015 as Practice and Learning Coordinator. In addition to her Alliance for Action activities, Elaine supports SURF's Resilient Scotland contract and other team members. Her previous life was as a journalist, academic and consultant, all of which honed the research and communication skills she now uses to support regeneration and inequalities projects.

Her abiding interest is in policy which tries to address inequalities and the culture of poverty. Elaine has worked across the UK evaluating NHS, local authority and voluntary programmes which seek to address inequalities. Research for her doctorate (*The Role of Values in the Policy Process*, 2011) included more than 150 interviews with Scottish children, their families and education workers on the subject of health and nutrition. Elaine is also an independent assessor for Healthy Working Lives – a successful preventative, public health initiative from NHS Scotland.

Paul Duffy | Alliance for Action Rothesay Local Facilitator | SURF



Paul initially trained as an archaeologist, latterly specialising in Forensic Anthropology as part of Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division. In 2009 he moved to Bute to take up the post of deputy project manager (archaeology and heritage) for the HLF funded *Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme*.

Since the end of this project in 2012, he has continued to facilitate and promoting inclusive multi-partner local community activism in heritage through his own organisation *Brandanii Archaeology and Heritage*. These include collaborative work with local organisations such as Fyne Futures and the Rothesay Townscape Heritage Initiative, and wider national partnerships with Archaeology Scotland and the University of Leeds.

He also has extensive voluntary community experience on the island ranging from tourism development through **visitBute**, to supporting inclusive approaches to children's activities through **Achievement Bute**. In 2014 he was elected as a community councillor. He has been an active member of the Alliance for Action initiative since 2014, and was appointed project facilitator in early 2016.

Fiona Duncan | Chief Executive | Lloyds TSB Foundation Scotland

After a 20+ years in the voluntary sector, Fiona became Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland's Chief Executive in November 2014 having joined the Foundation the previous autumn as the Deputy Chief Executive.



Prior to this, Fiona spent almost seven years at THINK Consulting Solutions, a leading international consultancy dedicated to not for profits where she led on strategic planning assignments, working mainly overseas.

From late 1999 until 2006, Fiona was at Capability Scotland, starting as Director of Fundraising and latterly becoming the Director of External Affairs. Before Capability, Fiona was Head of Development at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and before that spent six years with WaterAid's establishing their office for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Over the last 30 years, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland has given out over £100 million in grants and made almost 14,000 awards to charities across Scotland. Our mission is to make a difference to the lives of individuals and communities in Scotland, by encouraging positive change, opportunities, fairness and growth of aspirations, which improve quality of life. Our strategy has three objectives aimed to fulfil this:

1. To be the best grant-maker that we can be: through progressive grant-making.
2. To reach communities that grant-making doesn't: through an innovative asset-based community empowerment programme.
3. To support other grant-maker: through offering our expertise via a social enterprise.

Fiona is also a member of Comic Relief's UK Grants Committee

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