



SURF
Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice

2011 SURF Annual Conference

17th March; Roxburghe Hotel, Edinburgh

Keynote Speaker Biographies *(in order of presentation)*

Andrew Lyon | Converger | International Futures Forum



Andrew is currently Converger of the International Futures Forum.

He studied sociology and economics at Edinburgh University 1976-80, and conducted research for a Phd in India between 1981-83 and again in 1985.

In 1986 he became the co-ordinator the Glasgow Healthy Cities Project, part of a World Health Organisation Europe programme, based with Glasgow City Council. During this period he also acted as a consultant for the WHO in Europe and Bangladesh, seeking to support this type of approach in other places.

In 1996, he moved to Forward Scotland, the sustainable development charity, as development manager, enabling and supporting action to demonstrate what sustainable development looks like when you try to do it, and feeding this back into the thinking and policy processes in this field. In 2000 he became Acting Chief Executive, until leaving to join the Scottish Council Foundation's International Future's Forum in May 2001.

The International Futures Forum is a group, which holds that our current understandings of the world do not help us to solve the challenges it contains. We need to find new approaches based on deeper humanity, a more balanced relationship with nature and respect for diversity.

Julia Unwin CBE | Chief Executive | Joseph Rowntree Foundation



Julia is Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust.

She was a member of the Housing Corporation Board for 10 years and a Charity Commissioner from 1998-2003. Julia was also Deputy Chair of the Food Standards Agency and worked as an independent consultant operating within government and the voluntary and corporate sectors. In that role, she focused

on the development of services and in particular the governance and funding of voluntary organisations.

Julia has researched and written extensively on the role, governance and funding of the voluntary sector. She previously held a position as chair of the Refugee Council from 1995 until 1998, and is now a trustee of York Museums and Gallery Trust and a member of the University of York's Council.

Follow Julia on Twitter @juliaunwin

Pat Ritchie | Chief Executive | Homes & Communities Agency



Pat is the Chief Executive of the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA), taking over from Sir Bob Kerlake on the 1 November 2010.

Pat was previously the HCA Director for the North East. Since joining the HCA in 2008, Pat has played a leading role at a national level in developing Local Investment Planning, our key business process.

As well as establishing our new team in the North East, she has led the delivery of several key strategic projects across the area. These include Middlehaven, where jobs, learning and new homes are coming together to transform the former Middlesbrough dock site, and Newcastle's Scotswood area, where a £9.8m HCA investment is the first step in a large-scale renewal project. She has also played a leading role in developing plans for Byker, where an HCA-led Task Force has paved the way for development of a Community Trust, which could bring up to £48m of investment into the iconic Newcastle estate. Pat also leads on The Northern Way for the agency.

Pat has extensive experience in economic development and regeneration. As Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy) at One North East, she led on the Regional Economic Strategy and its action plan, as well as leading development of the Objective 2 programme for the North East. Prior to this, she was Deputy Chief Executive of The Wise Group, a prominent employment and training company in Scotland and the North of England.

Pat's experience also includes a senior management role with EDI, a property and economic development company owned by Edinburgh Council, and chairing the Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum from 2000 to 2003. In earlier years she had a variety of roles in economic development and regeneration for Newcastle and Sunderland City Councils.

Andy Milne | Chief Executive | SURF – Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network

SURF is an independent network of regeneration practitioners and policy makers. By sharing and channeling the views and experience of its cross-sector membership, SURF seeks to inform and positively influence the development of successful community regeneration policy in Scotland.

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



From 1987 to 1992, Andy was director of the Bathgate Area Initiatives Team, providing support and co ordination to the voluntary sector across West Lothian. Having originally studied Architecture at Edinburgh College of Art, and undertaken a subsequent year of voluntary work, Andy then went into community work where he developed and managed the Wester Hailes Management Agency until 1987.

Andy is also active on the board of Planning Aid for Scotland and the Community Development Alliance Scotland.

George Dodds | Director for Programme Design & Delivery | NHS Health Scotland



George joined NHS Health Scotland, as Director of Delivery, in February 2011.

Having spent over 20 years working with health and social care professionals in Gateshead, George moved into a corporate & policy development role at South Tyneside where he led negotiations with Government to agree priorities and set targets, which included health inequalities.

From there he moved to Lancashire for almost 4 years and worked as Assistant Chief Executive at Pendle Borough Council. His role included strategic leadership in areas such as: partnership development, performance & service improvement, Every Child Matters, health inequalities and cohesion. He held operational responsibility for research, policy development, scrutiny, procurement, outsourcing & client management, communications, community safety & neighbourhood management in deprived communities.

George joined us from the Department for Communities and Local Government where he was Deputy Regional Director at Government Office North East and has almost 30 years public sector experience relevant to his role. He is passionate about tackling inequalities, improving peoples' lives and the places they live.

John Cassidy | Chair | Cambuslang & Rutherglen Community Health Initiative

John is a former Head of Service in the education department in South Lanarkshire Council.

Now retired, he is particularly interested in the promotion of healthy lifestyles among young people and in the ways in which young people can be directly involved in improving the quality of life in their communities.

He is the current Chair and a long-standing board member of Cambuslang & Rutherglen Community Health Initiative. Services provided by the initiative include stress management, healthy eating and exercise, alcohol prevention work, volunteer support and development, and local community ICT development.



Denys Candy | Facilitator, Trainer and Coach | Community Partners Institute

Denys is an experienced and successful Facilitator, Trainer and Coach in the Community Partners Institute based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

He has extensive experience in supporting the involvement of disadvantaged groups of residents in the 'Hill' district of Pittsburgh in the realisation of their aspirations for their community in a process of external investment and change. He also trained community builders from around the United States in the application of this innovative, comprehensive model.



Denys also assists with the development of regeneration and community building projects in the UK and Ireland, such as the Helix Trust greenspace development project in Falkirk and Grangemouth and the creation of university/community partnerships in Dublin and Sunderland.

Over the past four years, Denys has worked with people from the public, private and non-profit sectors using the arts to generate broader involvement and action in community plans. He has a reputation for creating practical working partnerships in real time to address crises related to substance abuse and youth violence and community building.

He provides a regular column to SURF for publication in quarterly issues of SURF's regeneration policy journal, *Scotregen*. The most recent one focuses on creative attitudes to community regeneration.

SURF originally made contact with Denys during a study visit related to an international conference on Combating Social Exclusion in the context of 'post deindustrialisation shock'. His creative approach to work with post-industrial, steel-making communities in Pittsburgh, offers a potentially useful basis for exploring how all partners can further improve their policy development and practice in similar challenges in Scotland. This effort seems particularly relevant in the current context of sharply rising unemployment and funding restrictions.