

Symposium Attendees

Thursday 21st – Friday 22nd November 2018

Dr Fiona Aldridge
Helen Chicot
Paul Donaghy
Dr Vicky Duckworth
Dr Colin Forrest
Dr Helen Plant
Dragana Ramsden
Mark Ravenhall
Dafydd Rhys
Alan Sherry
Dr Rob Smith (Thursday only)
Jill Westerman

Fiona Aldridge

Dr Fiona Aldridge is interim director for policy and research at Learning and Work Institute, providing leadership across the breadth of its research and development programmes, with a particular focus on learning for work and careers.

Fiona joined NIACE in 1997 and progressed through a range of research roles to become Head of Research in 2003. Fiona took on her current role of Assistant Director in 2014.

Fiona is a mum of three children and Vice Chair of Governors at a local primary school, where she is a Pupil Premium Champion and promotes the development of family learning opportunities.

Helen Chicot

Helen Chicot is Place Integration Lead, working in Rochdale Borough Council's neighbourhood teams. She works with a small multi-agency team in small neighbourhoods to develop and test ways of working that reduce vulnerability and crisis. A passionate advocate of the benefits of education, Helen considers access to learning to be a right.

Paul Donaghy

Paul Donaghy is a member of the Northern Ireland Impact Forum. He has worked as a town planner, workforce representative, manager of NHS University (NI), and Head of the Health and Social Care Widening Participation Unit. He works as a consultant for the HSC Leadership Centre and is a Trustee Open College Network N.I.

Vicky Duckworth

Dr Vicky Duckworth is Professor of Education at Edge Hill University. Vicky has developed considerable expertise as an educationalist and researcher in the field of Adult Literacy and Education. She is deeply committed to challenging inequality through critical and emancipatory approaches to education, widening participation, inclusion, community action and engaging in research with a strong social justice agenda.

Colin Forrest

Dr Colin Forrest is an honorary visiting research fellow at Leeds Trinity University where he also teaches on the Masters in Education course. He taught Science and mathematics in schools and further education for 25 years. He is currently working with the Education and Training Foundation in supporting TVET programmes. This has included all phases of Teach Too.

Helen Plant

Helen has over 15 years' experience at national level in adult education policy, research and development. From 2004-14 she held a range of roles at NIACE (now Learning & Work Institute), including membership of the secretariat for the *Inquiry into the Future for Lifelong Learning* and Head of Research. She is currently involved in research, development and evaluation programmes across a wide range of lifelong learning contexts and has particular interests in impact measurement and learning and volunteering. Helen is also a qualified ESOL practitioner and currently teaches with WEA in Leicester.

Dragana Ramsden

Dragana Ramsden is Head of the Centre for Community Learning and Engagement at Morley College, London. She has extensive experience of leading and managing adult community learning programmes. They are aimed at adults with barriers to engagement and delivered through multiple stakeholder partnerships. A passion for the social purpose of education drives her work. Her latest research focuses on the role of adult community learning leadership in improving mental health and wellbeing through collaboration.



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Mark Ravenhall

Mark's career has spanned the public, private and voluntary sectors. He started as a teacher in further education, leading a residential adult college and an adult education service before joining the National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) in 2001. He worked for 12 years at NIACE becoming Director of Policy and Impact. Freelance, he works for a number of clients in the UK and Europe. Since 2013, he has been part of the UK National Coordinator team, now led by the Learning and Work Institute. As part of this work, he chairs the England Impact Forum which meets quarterly to discuss evidence on the impact of adult learning.

Dafydd Rhys

Dafydd Rhys has a background in Geography and Recreation and Parks, and has worked in the Schools, Further Education, Higher Education and Adult Community Learning sectors. He has also established community and co-operative enterprises in the creative, publishing and recreation industries. Currently, he works for Addysg Oedolion Cymru|Adult Learning Wales as its Democratic Engagement and Welsh Medium Co-ordinator.

Alan Sherry

Alan Sherry became Principal of Glasgow Kelvin College on Vesting Day for the new College on 1 November 2013. He had been Principal Designate since June 2013 coordinating the final phase of the merger process. Alan has been involved actively in a range of national widening participation initiatives over a number of years and has recently stepped down from the Scottish Funding Council Access and Inclusion Committee having served his second and final term.

Alan is the current convenor of the Glasgow Colleges Group and represents Glasgow Colleges on the Executive Officers Group of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership. Furthermore, he is a member of the North East Glasgow Community Planning Partnership Sector Board. He is also a member of the Glasgow Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership. In addition Alan is a board member of a number of community based organisations in North East Glasgow. He is chair of the Colleges Partnership and is a board member of Eurash, a European association for colleges.

Alan started his career in education with Strathclyde Regional Council in community education before joining the former Central College of Commerce. He then moved to John Wheatley College in August 1989. In addition, Alan is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



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Rob Smith

Dr Rob Smith is a Reader in Education at Birmingham City University. His body of work explores the impact of funding and marketisation in education. Recent research with Vicky Duckworth focuses on further education as a space for transformative teaching and learning. Other research projects include Social Justice and Leadership in Further Education (funded by FETL).

Jill Westerman

Jill has worked in adult education for over 30 years and was principal of the Northern College in Barnsley until she retired in the summer of 2018. She is a trustee and Vice Chair of FETL (Further Education Trust for Leadership) and a governor of City Lit. She has published a number of articles and chapters on leadership and teaching and learning. Jill was awarded a CBE in 2010 for services to adult education.



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