

Rachel Quinn, Chief Executive, One East Midlands - Rachel's career to date has spanned three sectors, including roles within the finance industry and local authority Environmental Health. She has been working in the Voluntary and Community Sector for the last 13 years in both urban and rural settings. Rachel has particular interests in health, housing, economic development, multi-agency working and sectoral leadership issues. Rachel is a former Director of the Greater Nottingham [economic] Partnership, Board member of the EM Regional Assembly and is the first UK VCS Deputy Chair for a regional ERDF programme. Rachel joined One EM in 2008 and has focussed on working to clarify the role and purpose of the regional network and ensuring added value to our members and partners.

Nicola Thurbon, Head of Policy and Learning, Big Lottery Fund - Nicola Thurbon is Head of Policy and Learning at Big Lottery Fund, the largest distributor of good-cause funding raised by the National Lottery. Since 2004, Big Lottery Fund has awarded over £6billion to projects supporting health, education, environment and charitable purposes, with 80-90 per cent of funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations. Nicola leads a team that helps Big Lottery Fund to understand the impact of its grants and investments, and oversees the sharing of this learning with others to help improve services and support for communities and those most in need across England. As part of her role, Nicola liaises with a range of organisations across the voluntary, public and private sectors.

Tim Pearse, Senior Policy Adviser Social Investment and Finance Team, Cabinet Office and Lead on Social Outcomes Fund - Tim has had a variety of roles in the Civil Service including as an economist and an adviser on police funding. He currently works as a Senior Policy Adviser within the Social Investment and Finance Team in the Cabinet Office where works on Social Impact Bonds and leads on the £20million Social Outcomes Fund. He holds an MSc in economics and has experience in corporate banking.

Chris Theobald, Associate, Baker Tilly Corporate Finance LLP - Chris has over eight years experience of working with corporate clients, charities and NDPBs during times of strategic change including mergers, acquisitions, corporate disposals, options appraisals, strategy reviews and social impact assessments. He worked alongside Jim Clifford OBE in the development of the recently launched adoption bond for Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies, which combines a payment by results commissioning model and a Social Impact Bond financing structure.

Stuart Young is the Executive Director of East Midlands Councils - East Midlands Councils is the politically-led membership body that works on behalf of councils in the East Midlands. Its main focus is to support councils in delivering economic growth, and sector-led improvement and transformation. Within this there is a diverse range of responsibilities from securing resources for infrastructure and investment, to councillor and officer development and training, to a focus on issues that include adult social care, health and wellbeing, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Stuart Young has been the Executive Director of East Midlands Councils since its establishment in 2010. He has previously worked for a number of local councils, universities and other public sector organisations in the region.

Jo Whaley, Network Director of Regional Voices - Jo is the Network Director of Regional Voices which champions the work of voluntary and community organisations to improve health, wellbeing and care across England. Jo started working on the Regional Voices health and care project in June 2009, managing the North East region's Third Sector Health and Social Care Forum, based at Voluntary Organisations' Network North East (VONNE) where she also managed NETS (work), the North East Third Sector learning disability provider network. She continues to support NETS(work) on a freelance basis, and in addition is Vice Chair of Riverside Community Health Project, a Governor for the North East Ambulance Service. Before working at VONNE Jo lived and worked in Cambodia as a Management Adviser with Voluntary Service Overseas.

Mary Simpson, Head of Patient and Public Voice for Midlands and East - Before joining NHS England as Head of Patient and Public Voice for Midlands and East in April 2013, Mary worked for the Department of Health. In the Department of Health, Mary worked in a number of different areas including patients' involvement in their own care, patient and public engagement, patient experience and Healthwatch. Earlier in her career, Mary was a team member working in areas including disability services, primary care and research and development. Mary was able to build on her experience and interest in patient and public participation by becoming Head of Patient and Public Voice in NHS England for Midlands and East. In this role she works with NHS England Area Teams, Clinical Senates, Commissioning Support Organisations and the national support centre to provide advice and support on patient and public participation.

Roger Moors, CEO of SEEM - Roger Moors is CEO of SEEM, an organisation based in Nottingham which assists in the creation and development of Social Businesses. Coming from a banking background, most of Roger's work is focused on accessing the rapidly evolving social finance marketplace and facilitating early start up development. His mantra is very much that 'Business for good! is good for business' and at a time when high street banks are loathe to part with their money, he looks to find investment opportunities for funders who do want to invest in businesses that make a difference in people's lives. SEEM currently hold contracts with or represent a number of social finance intermediaries across the East Midlands including the Key Fund and are partners in the Cabinet Office backed Social Incubator North Fund.

Azrina Bulmer, Programmes & Development Manager, Charity Bank Limited - Azrina joined Charity Bank in 2009. Trained as a lawyer, she started her career in civil litigation before taking up work in local authorities in economic and community development, developing and managing a variety of projects mainly in rural economies. Throughout her career, Azrina has helped to lead local organisations in responding to local needs. She has always been committed to improving organisational effectiveness, increasing financial security and extending partnership working. She is a Trustee for several charities and takes an active role in supporting local community projects. Married with a young child, family life fills most of her time outside work, and she enjoys cooking and gardening.

David Ralph, Chief Executive Officer, D2N2 LEP - In March 2013, David became Chief Executive of D2N2 LEP supporting public and private sector partners in enabling economic growth, creating private sector jobs, increasing skills and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Previous to that David was the Chief Executive at Haven Gateway Partnership a public/private partnership co-ordinating economic and housing growth across the D2N2 area. Other roles have included Chief Executive of Nelm Development Trust based in Norwich and Chief Executive of Community of Heart where both roles involved supporting the delivery of the New Deal for Communities programme.

Rob Crowder, Chief Executive for Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire - Robert Crowder trained as an Environmental Health Officer in Birmingham and spent a number of years in the Urban Renewal section before he moved to Nottinghamshire. He worked for Gedling Borough Council for 17 years and as Principal Officer (Sustainable Development) the first of its type in the region, he introduced a number of innovative new recycling schemes. In May 2001 he was appointed to Nottinghamshire County Council as Sustainability Team Manager where he introduced the Sustainable Developers Guide and the Wood Heat initiative in schools. In February 2007 he was appointed Chief Executive at Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council now renamed "Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire". At RCAN he has been involved in developing the offer of support to communities on the Localism Act and creating new business models for the organisation. Rob has recently been appointed as the VCS member for the D2N2 LEP Board to represent and input on behalf of the sector across the D2N2 area.

Jane Carr, Chief Executive, Northampton Volunteering Centre - Jane was appointed to her current role as Chief Executive of Northampton Volunteering Centre (NVC) in 2013, having previously worked at NVC as a senior manager. She works with her colleagues to promote the work of the voluntary sector at a strategic level as well as supporting local organisations to grow. Jane brings to the voluntary sector a wealth of management and business experience from the private sector and a passion to build successful cross-sector collaborations that leave a lasting legacy with the community. She is one of a growing number of people who are keen to bring their private sector knowledge and skills to the voluntary sector.