

One East Midlands 2013/14 Annual Information Event - Speaker Profiles



Rachel Quinn, One East Midlands - Rachel is the Chief Executive of 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 VCS 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 East Midlands in 2008 and has focused on working to clarify the role and purpose of the regional network and ensuring added value to our members and partners.



Mark Foley, Department for Communities and Local Government - Mark Foley is the Head of the Growth Delivery Teams for the Midlands area at the Department for Communities and Local Government. Mark has been involved with European Funds since 1996 and delivered the role of Partnership Director at the Regional Development Agency (RDA) - Advantage West Midlands from 2007 to 2011 with responsibility for RDA investments in Birmingham and Black Country. In 2011 Mark moved to the Department for Communities and Local Government to manage the West Midlands 2007 to 2013 ERDF Programme. This role expanded in October 2012 taking on responsibility for the East Midlands ERDF Programme.



Rowena Limb, Department for Business Innovation and Skills - Rowena is the Area Director for BIS East Midlands & South East Midlands. Previously Rowena worked in GOEM as Deputy Director for Planning, Housing, Transport and Rural Affairs. Rowena joined the Civil Service from University, beginning in an inner city benefit office and holding various posts within education and skills both regionally and nationally including working on Jobseekers Allowance legislation, developing a National Qualification for Head Teachers and regionalisation of the European Social Fund. She has also been on secondment to the RNIB.



Andrew Pritchard, East Midlands Councils - Andrew is Director of Policy & Infrastructure for East Midlands Councils, and has over 20 years professional experience in local government covering planning, transport, housing, economic development and European issues. He is Chair of the East Midlands region of the Royal Town Planning Institute and sits on the Policy Council of the Town & Country Planning Association. He is also a member of the Planning Officers Society. He has previously worked for West Devon Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council. In 1999 he joined the East Midlands Regional Local Government Association (EMRLGA) to work on regional planning. In April 2003, Andrew moved across to the Regional Assembly as Director of Housing, Planning & Transport, and then over to East Midlands Councils in April 2010.



Nick Bolton, Co-Founder and Project Manager, Electric Corby CIC - Nick has 25 years' experience promoting places, building brands and developing partnerships that deliver economic benefits for local communities. Having started in inward investment support and commercial development with one of the original Enterprise Zones in the 80's Nick has gone on to promote destinations as diverse as Cambridge and Scunthorpe, Milton Keynes and Corby. As Head of Economic Development in Cambridge and then as Director of Investment & Marketing in North Northamptonshire, Nick devised and delivered new branding approaches and worked between the private and public sector delivering inward investment solutions in some of the fastest growing local authority areas in the UK. Most recently Nick has been instrumental in founding the Electric Corby community interest company with a fresh private / public approach to establishing Corby as a leading edge location for clean tech investment.



John O'Reilly, The Prince's Trust - John is the Central England Director for The Prince's Trust, the UK's leading youth charity, having joined The Trust in April 2011 as the East Midlands Director. He is responsible for delivering the Business Plan for the Trust across a geography which encompasses the West Midlands, East Midlands and the East of England. The Trust supports disadvantaged young people from 13 to 30 to change their lives by developing confidence and skills which enable them to get into education, training and employment. To achieve this, the Trust runs a number of programmes which offer personal development opportunities based on the needs of those young people.



Sarah Livestro – Senior Associate, Shoosmiths LLP - Sarah is a Senior Associate in Shoosmiths LLP's EU and competition team and leads the firm's State aid practice. She provides commercial, practical advice to both private and public sector bodies on all aspects of the State aid rules. She also advises on all areas of competition law, including day-to-day compliance issues, competition authority investigations and merger control. She regularly delivers bespoke competition law and State aid training sessions, ranging from small "master classes" to large compliance programmes. Recent experience includes advising a local authority on its application for State aid clearance for a large broadband infrastructure project and advising an RGF scheme manager on State aid compliance of grants made under the scheme. Before joining Shoosmiths LLP, Sarah worked as a lawyer in Hogan Lovells' EU and competition team, based in Brussels. She speaks English, Dutch and French.



Glen Mehn, Managing Director, Bethnal Green Ventures - Glen Mehn is managing director of Bethnal Green Ventures. He has designed and run innovation programmes in over twenty countries. He brings 15 years of operational and technical experience including running the IT for Burning Man and companies ranging from gene sequencing to search. He started his career as a designer in New Orleans.



Chris Hall, The Hive, Nottingham Trent University - Chris Hall is the Business Manager for The Hive, Nottingham Trent University's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise. The centre is a purpose built germinator and incubator unit created to help students, graduates and staff to develop high growth creative, knowledge and technology based start-up businesses. The Hive also leads on embedding entrepreneurship into the university curriculum. Chris is also on the Board of Enterprise Educators UK. Previously, Chris worked for 35 years in a wide range of companies throughout British Industry from "blue chip" to SMEs, in sectors ranging from heavy engineering to soft drinks and from building products to plastics. He has managed several subsidiary operations for major PLCs and has also run his own small business consultancy.



Dr Mike Huxley, The Hive@ Mansfield, Nottingham Trent University - Dr Mike Huxley is the Outreach Manager for the Hive@Mansfield, which is an extension of Nottingham Trent's University Hive project. Hive@Mansfield runs the 'Proof of Concept' programme, a series of 14 workshops over 12 weeks to take participants with a new business idea on a journey to explore, research, test, evaluate and obtain the evidence on which to base a confident decision about its commercial potential and have route-map for success. Dr Huxley is involved with local economic development and through Mansfield 2020 and its Business Liaison Group has been involved in getting Superfast broadband into Mansfield and worked with local schools on Enterprise and Entrepreneurism.