

Forward Communities: Cultivating Joint Working Speaker Biographies



Mark Ravenhall

Director for Policy & Impact, NIACE

Mark Ravenhall, MA (Education Management), BA (Hons), Cert Ed (Adults) is Director for Policy & Impact at the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). He oversees the Institute's work in terms of Further and Higher Education policy, Community Learning, the English regions, Guidance, Campaigns, Conferences, Publications, Membership,

Sponsorship and Fundraising, European initiatives and learner voice.

Mark has over 20 years' experience in education, working in the private, public and voluntary sectors. He trained as a college lecturer before going into adult education as an area manager, Head of Residential Adult Education for Buckinghamshire, before leading the adult learning service in East Sussex.



William Lewis

Programme Director Learning & Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)

William has always worked in education. He started his career as an English teacher, but later moved to further education to introduce media studies and media education across the curriculum at Exeter College. He soon joined their teacher education team and, with colleagues, developed a Certificate in Education (FE) course. In

1994 he moved to North East Worcestershire College to lead their teacher education team and in 1997 was appointed to a senior cross-college role, managing a range of learner services, with a particular focus on widening participation.

The publication of the Moser Report in 1999 led William to join the Further Education Funding Council as an inspector where, through FEFC's cross-regional team, he also gained experience of the other adult learning organisations funded by FEFC. In 2001 he transferred into the new Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) where he was part of the team that piloted and introduced the inspection of adult and community learning (ACL) inspections. His particular contribution to the ALI was to set up, in 2004, Excalibur, the popular and highly-regarded inspection-based quality improvement service. William joined QIA at its commencement in 2006 as Programme Director for its Excellence and Innovation programmes. He continues this role within the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) as Head of Innovation, where he has introduced the Flexibility and Innovation fund to encourage the development of knowledge and practice through funding good ideas from the sector.

Workshop lead biographies



Jack Harrington
Volunteering England*

Jack Harrington is currently on secondment from Volunteering England, assisting the Greater London Authority with the London Ambassadors 2012 Volunteering Programme. He has worked in financial services in education policy and in public sector project management. A published academic author, Jack has a PhD from the University of Edinburgh and has taught at the Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh and the Open University. Jack is a Trustee of the University of the Creative Arts Students' Union and a Research Fellow at the Open University.

* from March 2010 Jack was Volunteering England's Further Education Senior Officer and he will be drawing on his experience in this role for today's event.



Lorraine Palmer
Manager of the Birchwood Access and Training Centre

The Centre is a registered charity, situated in Lincoln, which offers support and training opportunities to the local community. I also manage the Learning Communities Project; this is a network of like minded organisations around the county, who support community delivery of learning. Working in partnership to offer support and services, by working with community groups through to Strategic Partners. The project impacts on a variety of agenda such as Social Inclusion, Re-generation and Financial Inclusion to name but a few. The project works to influence other departmental agenda's such as employment and the up skilling of workforce and employability skills for those seeking work. The overall aim being, to deal with the day to day issues in people's lives, as these are barriers that prevent them from progressing towards their personal ambitions, leading to community cohesion and empowerment.



Jo Hudek
JH Consulting

Jo established JH Consulting in 1993 and has worked in the fields of skills, employment, inclusion and community development for the past 25 years. She has substantial experience in facilitating highly participative workshops with providers (third sector, FE & private sector) and strategic/funding organisations (local authorities, Government Departments and their agencies). She also provides a wide range of other consultancy including organisational/service development, evaluation, partnership support, fundraising, strategic planning and developing models of community action. Jo has particular expertise in working with community based and specialist organisations such as those for refugees, women, people who are homeless and ex offenders. Drawing on her extensive experience at national, regional and local levels, Jo has developed a range of practical tools that help partners to plan and deliver person-centred integrated services using 'more for less' principles. This includes the Integrated Service Planning and the Collaboration Toolkits. These can be tailored to suit the needs of client organisations.