

Weathering Storms: the resilience of the 3rd sector in an economic downturn

Speaker Biographies



Rachel Quinn
Chief Executive, One East Midlands

Rachel began her career in the finance industry and subsequently changed career paths and undertook an Environmental Health role with Nottingham City Council. Having become disillusioned with the effects of enforcement in deprived communities, she has since been working in the Voluntary and Community Sector for the last 6 years in both urban and rural settings.

Experience in all three sectors has provided invaluable skills in her previous role as Deputy Chief Executive at Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire where her work focused heavily on cross-sectoral working. Rachel has particular interests in rural health, housing, economic development and social enterprise, partnership development and sectoral leadership issues. She graduated from the Common Purpose 'Matrix' programme in 2004.



Anne Halliday
Deputy Regional Director of Home Office

After graduating from Manchester University and a spell as a volunteer for NACRO, Anne Halliday joined the Central Home Office in 1985. She has worked in a wide range of policy areas including nationalities, policing and crime as well as corporate functions such as planning and HR and a spell in an NDPB. Her most recent Home Office post was leading a unit covering Local Government issues, including the CPA and Local Area Agreements. This was a natural stepping stone to moving to the Government Offices (July 2005) first as a relationship manager for Derby and Derbyshire and since May 2006 as the Home Office Deputy Regional Director. Her current responsibilities include crime and substance misuse reduction,

race, faith cohesion, preventing violent extremism, and promoting the role of the Voluntary and Community Sector.



Evan Rees
Chief Executive, Regeneration East Midlands

Evan Rees took up post as Chief Executive of Regeneration East Midlands in January 2008. Moving to REM allows Evan to bring together a number of elements of his career to date by linking social and physical regeneration, encouraging best practice in Intelligence, Skills, Design, and Funding of regeneration in the East Midlands.

Previously he worked for national and regional Housing Associations where he managed and then developed social housing and social care services. In the late 1980's he developed the Village Companies Project for Leicester Housing Association, working with former mining communities to set up social enterprises. In 2002, Evan set up Social Enterprise East Midlands. He was also a member of the Investment Committee of Futurebuilders where he developed experience of investing in third sector organisations developing new services with public sector partners.



Elizabeth Balgobin
Consultant, Skills – Third Sector

Elizabeth Balgobin has worked in the third sector for 20 years, most recently as Chief Executive at the London Voluntary Service Council. She is a member of the London Skills and Employment Board and a trustee of London Sustainability Exchange. Elizabeth is currently a freelance consultant to the statutory and third sectors.



Angela Sarkis CBE
Champion for the Region, Capacitybuilders

Angela Sarkis is an experienced and dynamic professional with relevant knowledge of voluntary and public sector organisations as an executive, trustee, consultant and volunteer. Angela has

experience of third sector capacity-building from her role as the head of various not-for-profit organisations, including the YMCA and the Church Urban Fund. Angela was a Member of the House of Lords Appointments Commission. She is currently Vice President of the African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance and a member of The Portman Group Independent Complaints Panel.

Jo Dean**Manager, Nottingham Community Network**

Jo is the manager of Nottingham Community Network, based at Nottingham CVS. For four years has been heavily involved in Nottingham's LAA negotiations and led the consultation with the city's voluntary and community groups. Jo is really pleased that Nottingham's agreed LAA priorities include NI4 (people feeling they can influence decisions) and NI7 (an environment for a thriving third sector) as this is a recognition of the importance of these issues. Like everywhere else, Nottingham has some good practice to share and lots more to do.

Jo is also a director of local housing and support charity Framework HA and of Urban Forum which is a membership led organisation supporting communities to have a greater say in decision making.

Shamsher Chohan**Consultant, Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership**

Shamsher has worked in the voluntary sector for over 20 years within local, regional and national organisations. She is the former London Regional Director for CEMVO, Mainstreaming Equalities Manager for Government Office London and Chair of the Community Development Exchange for 5 years. As previous Vice Chair of the BME sub group of the Compact she is one of the founding members of Voice4Change England and sits on Compact Voice which is the voice for the voluntary sector on compact issues as well as being a Board member for Urban Forum and One East Midlands for whom she is the Compact Champion.

She has worked as an independent consultant and NLP Trainer for the last 7 years and been recently involved in working with the National Empowerment Partnership, the National Equality Partnership, V4CE, and as a regular consultant with the Community Development Foundation. She is also a trained firewalk instructor and stage hypnotist!

Kerrie Fletcher**Manager, Derbyshire '3D' Consortium**

Kerrie Fletcher is Manager of Third Sector Support for Derbyshire (3D), the third sector infrastructure consortium for Derby and Derbyshire. Until last September she was Co-ordinator of LeicesterShire Volunteer Centre Network. Kerrie has worked in the 'third sector' since long before it had that name. She managed the Volunteer Centre in Cambridge from 1995 until 2006 and has also worked for Fenland CVS, Voluntary Action Charnwood and as a freelance consultant and trainer. She has in the past been a trustee of COVER (community and voluntary forum for the Eastern region) Fenland Citizens Advice Bureau, East Cambs CVS, Speaking Up in Cambridge and CASES (Community Action and Support East Staffordshire). She currently restricts her volunteering activity to practical, hands on tasks, mostly for The Shrimala Trust.