

Biographies

Going Global Partnerships

TVET for a sustainable economy

28 - 30 November 2022, Coventry, UK

Chris Cooper

Global Lead, TVET – British Council



Chris is an economist with 30 years' experience of working in skills development and labour market analysis. He has led research investigating key skills development issues and guided [British Council](#) programmes and projects in over 30 countries. Chris previously worked in private consultancy for 15 years and managed over 150 projects providing research, evaluation and policy advice for national governments, their agencies and social partners.

Jim O'Boyle

Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change - Coventry City Council



Jim joined the CWLEP board in 2016.

He was born and raised in Coventry and left school to work in a factory which made fibre glass roofing, lasting seven months before getting a job in the Peugeot factory in Ryton in 1988. It was here that Jim joined the Transport and General Workers Union - rising to become Convenor of the plant in 2004. This experience gave Jim both the skills and motivation to do the job he now does. He later worked for the Union and also for a Coventry MP.

Jim was elected to [Coventry City Council](#) in 2007 and is committed to creating an environment where business can succeed in order to create jobs and spread wealth evenly across the city and wider region.

Sam Callear

Deputy Director, Policy and New Concepts – Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE)



Sam is a Civil Servant with over 20 years' experience. His early career in the Department for Work and Pensions included working as part of the Permanent Secretary's private office, as a liaison point with select committees as well as various operational leadership roles. Since moving to [IfATE](#), Sam developed the organisation's first three-year strategic plan and two annual business plans before then leading the design of a new approach to making apprenticeship funding band recommendations. His current role heads up the IfATE's policy and strategy function and Priority Project Unit.

Claire Gill

Ofqual



Claire has worked across the breadth and depth of the further education and skills sector for the last 25 years. Beginning as a lecturer and then manager in an FE College, progressing to being a Communications and Engagement Director, Claire has led marketing and communications teams, run large-scale research and change programmes and been responsible for strategic partnerships. Claire joined [Ofqual](#) in 2017 and has been at the heart of the EQA work and the development of Ofqual's EQA approach. Claire and her team lead on Ofqual's engagement with sector partners, government and employers on a whole range of VTQ matters, and they are the first point of contact for any organisation considering becoming recognised by Ofqual.

Steve Frampton, MBE



In August 2018 after retiring from Portsmouth College Steve was appointed President of Association of Colleges and then re-elected for a second term. He is now FE/HE Climate Commissioner and Chair of AoC Services Board, AoC Sport Board and AoC Charitable Trust Board.

Steve's extensive career has been recognised at the highest level, with the awarding of a MBE for Services to Education in the Queen's New Year Honours.

Fiona Horrell

Consultant/ Partner - Outsourcery Services LLP



Fiona Horrell is representing [Devon and Cornwall Training Provider Network](#) (but operate the consultancy company Outsourcery Services).

Fiona has over 15 years of experience in the TVET sector and worked as a senior manager at a large scale further education College. Fiona delivers high-level strategic programmes, driving forward TVET and Higher Education, international and business-led education. Fiona has a proven track record, delivering and generating big results through rapid, strategic and commercial approaches to capital and revenue funding opportunities.

Bret Willers

Head of Sustainability & Climate Change - Coventry City Council



Bret has a long history of managing change in relation to sustainable development and regeneration having worked at Director level in the public sector in Local Government and also for national charities. Now, as Head of Sustainability and Climate Change at [Coventry City Council](#), Bret has returned to his roots engaging with public, private and voluntary sector bodies across the City region in developing a sustainable development and climate change strategy to be collectively owned by the City as a whole.

Stephen Wan

Deputy Director *Skills Strategy and Delivery* - Department for Education



Stephen Wan has been in the UK civil service for over nine years. He is working on strategy and implementation of reforms to England's post-16 education and skills system in the [Department for Education](#).

Previous roles: Parliamentary Bill Manager; Head of Education Spending at HM Treasury; Senior Financial Strategy Lead for Universal Credit and Welfare in the Department for Work and Pensions.

Darren Shaw

Deputy Director for Change Implementation - Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE)



Darren has worked in primary, secondary, post-compulsory and vocational education for over 20 years. He started his career as a secondary science teacher and teacher-trainer, before moving into government. There he helped awarding organisations produce academic and vocational qualifications and was responsible for producing national science qualifications for primary age children. More recently he has worked at the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education where he led on assessment matters and is now the

Deputy Director for Change Implementation at [IfATE](#), leading a variety of projects relating to aspects of apprenticeships, such as external quality assurance, funding and green matters.

Simon Field

Director of Skills Policy



Simon Field is a leading expert on TVET systems globally, and on how the technical and skills systems of the UK compare. Until 2016 he led the OECD's work on technical education systems, and has led and taken part in reviews undertaken in more than 30 countries. More recently, as an independent expert and director of [Skills Policy](#), he has undertaken many studies for the OECD, the ILO, and UNESCO as well as working for the British Council.

Charlotte Bonner

National Head of Education for Sustainable Development - Education and Training Foundation



Charlotte has over fifteen years' experience working in the sustainability and education sectors leading transformational engagement and development programmes.

Charlotte is the National Head of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at the [Education and Training Foundation](#) where she is responsible for the strategic development and implementation of their ESD work as well as being the policy and advocacy lead for sustainability.

Natasha Watkinson

Project Manager - Gatsby Charitable Foundation



Natasha Watkinson is a Project Manager at the [Gatsby Charitable Foundation](#). Natasha is responsible for work to support the implementation of T-levels, including supporting education providers and employers to make the most of industry placement opportunities to build strong career pathways, with a particular focus on Digital and Science routes.

Sarah Dhanda

Head of Policy and Partnerships - Enginuity



Sarah joined [Enginuity](#) (then SEMTA) in October 2018 as Head of Strategic Partnerships following a successful career in the Marine sector, where she worked for many years latterly as Chief Officer of Membership & Services at British Marine, the trade Association for the marine sector.

Sarah sits on the Made Smarter Strategic Implementation Group and takes the lead within Enginuity on the emerging digital skills needs of the sector. One of her key objectives is the sharing of knowledge and good practice across sectors to ensure connectivity on key skills and workforce development challenges.

Jo-Anne Bryan

Head of Standards, Apprenticeships and EPA – [Lantra](#)

Jo-Anne Bryan has been with Lantra for 22 years. Jo-Anne's role for the first 15 years was to manage the development of National Occupational Standards, Qualifications and Apprenticeship frameworks UK wide. Over the last 7 years Jo-Anne have been focusing on the delivery of End Point Assessments for Apprenticeships (EPA) in England.

David Fisher

Head of Industry Partnerships for Landscape and Rural industries – [Lantra](#)

David Fisher has been with Lantra for 8 years. Having worked with awarding bodies and sector skills councils to develop industry recognised training and qualifications, David's current role has more of a focus of ensuring Lantra is meeting the needs of industry through stakeholder engagement and raising Lantra's brand profile in the related sectors.