

Chair



Lucy de Groot, was the executive director of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) for local government for almost six years until May 2009. Prior to that she was a senior civil servant at the Treasury responsible for wide range of public services and a local authority chief executive for seven years, at Bristol City Council, where she set up the new unitary authority. She is a graduate of Oxford University and has a diploma in Social Administration from the LSE. She received a CBE in the New Years Honours List 2009.

Speakers



David Collins CBE became the chief executive of LSIS in August 2009. He is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh with an MA in Economics and Economic History and a PhD in Educational studies. David has worked in a variety of educational establishments, including a prison and a young offenders' institution as well as a number of colleges, most recently South Cheshire, where he was Principal and CEO. David was appointed CBE in the Queen's birthday honours in 2005 and was President of the Association of Colleges in 2008/09.



Helen Bailey is director of Public Services at HM Treasury, responsible for spending on Local Government, Housing, Health and Education. Previously she was chief executive of the London Borough of Islington. Helen has also been a management consultant. Her experience centres around change in the public sector and in her current role she brings an insight from central government into the world of Local government.



Stephen Marston is the director general for Universities and Skills Group at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and formerly director general for Further Education and Skills Group at DIUS. Before the creation of DIUS he was the director general for Lifelong Learning and Skills in the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES). Prior to that he was director of Skills Group, DfES.



Lord Victor Adebowale CBE is the chief executive of Turning Point, a social care organisation that works with people facing a range of complex needs including substance misuse, mental health problems and learning disabilities. Victor divides his time between a range of influential policymaking bodies. He is involved in a number of taskforce groups, advising the government on mental health, substance misuse, learning disability and the role of the voluntary sector. He is an audit commissioner, sits on the UK Commission for Employment and Skills and is a social enterprise ambassador. He was appointed CBE in 2000 for services to the New Deal, the unemployed and homeless young people and in 2001 became one of the first people's peers.



Professor John Benington came to Warwick Business School in 1988 to develop its work on public management and policy and has led the Institute of Governance and Public Management since 2001. Before that, he worked for more than 20 years in the public and voluntary services, and has experience of research, development and consultancy work with the British government. He has worked with local councils and public service authorities across the UK, and as an adviser to the governments of South Africa, Sierra Leone and Southern Sudan on leadership and management development programmes. He is a Fellow of the Sunningdale Institute and a contributor to programmes at the Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University).



Nick Brown OBE is the principal of Oldham Sixth Form College, which he opened in 1992 to address Oldham's position as the third worst local authority in England for achievement and participation post-16 and to provide a focus of multicultural success in a segregated town. The college has Beacon status and was rated as outstanding by Ofsted in 2004 and 2008. Nick chairs Oldham's Strategic Partnership and Oldham Public Service Board, which are regarded as the strategic leadership vehicle for regenerating the borough. He also chairs the executive committee of the Oldham Local Strategic Partnership, which is regarded as one of the best in the country and has regeneration through education as its key priority.



Irene Lucas CBE has been director general, local government and regeneration, at Communities and Local Government since September 2009. Her remit covers local government finance, policy and performance, and regeneration (including implementation of the sub-national review). Before that, she was chief executive of South Tyneside Council in 2002, and has spent 34 years in local government and a variety of local authorities. Irene has held a number of public appointments, including at the BBC and the Sports Council of England and has worked with the FA, Premier League, Department of Culture Media and Sport and Sport England, to redistribute television rights funding to grass roots soccer across the UK.



Sheila Lock was appointed chief executive of Leicester City Council in August 2008, having joined in 2006 as corporate director, children and young people's services. She is committed to working on One Leicester, the new city strategy for the next 25 years. Sheila has been involved in the development of early years policy around Surestart and Children's Centres. She is currently a representative on the National Migration Impact Forum and on the Local Authority Strategy Form. Sheila was previously employed by Calderdale Council as the head of services to students and communities. She trained as a social worker and has extensive experience of working with children and young people and their families.