

The Power of Positive Relationships – inspiring children to achieve their true potential

Wednesday 16th March, Central Glasgow (venue tbc)

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Elly Chapple

Founder of #flipthenarrative and CanDoELLA

Elly graduated with honours in Human Resource Management and the Psychology of Human Communication. She has always been fascinated with human communication and behaviour, both verbal and non-verbal. She spent her early career working in businesses, managing and developing strategy for solutions focused approaches and building and maintaining relationships with clients.



Elly has a passion and interest in equality and inclusion for all, and her drive is to ensure that **everyone has a seat at the table**. In 2014 when her eldest daughter lost her vision through misunderstanding of her disability, Elly sold her business to come home and begin another journey. She recently did her [TEDx](#) at Norwich sharing their journey to found **#flipthenarrative** - their movement rooted in humanity.

Elly, Dr Wendy Thorley and Ruth Whiteside, co-authored the book '*Adverse Childhood Experiences ACEs: Why all the fuss?*' last year and Elly also trained with Dr Thorley in the Friends Resilience programme. She works with Studio III as a Specialist Consultant and is a huge supporter of children's human rights. Elly believes that positive relationships can heal any trauma and reshape lives. Her daughter Ella remains her greatest teacher, showing us what we need to do, to share this space to be.

Bruce Adamson

The Children and Young People's
Commissioner



Bruce Adamson is a lawyer with over 20 years of experience in human rights. He has been the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland since 2017, responsible for promoting and safeguarding the rights of children and young people across Scotland.

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, he was a member of Scotland's Children's Panel for 13 years, working directly with children in need of care in protection or in conflict with the law, listening to their experiences and making decisions about their safety and wellbeing. Bruce co-chaired the Rights working group of Scotland's Independent Care Review and is a former Chair of the Scottish Child Law Centre.

Over the last four years the Commissioner's office has worked closely with children and young people to secure legislative change in relation to the age of criminal responsibility, comprehensive protection for children from physical punishment, and the incorporation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child into Scots law. They have undertaken strategic litigation on issues relating to child poverty, care experienced children, and restraint and seclusion. They have carried out investigations into restraint and seclusion in schools, and children whose liberty is at risk.

Bruce has acted as an international expert for the United Nations, Council of Europe, European Union, OSCE, and during the Covid-19 pandemic has advised the WHO on children's rights.

Robin Macpherson FRSA

Head of College, Robert Gordon's College and
Content Director, EduMod



Robin Macpherson is a headteacher and works at Robert Gordon's College, a 3-18 school in Aberdeen. As a history teacher and school leader for two decades, he has worked in Scotland, England and the Middle East. He has been an examiner for the SQA, the IBO and Edexcel (Pearson). He is an internationally published author, and frequently writes in the national and education press. His latest book *The Teaching Life* was co-authored with Kate Jones and is published by John Catt Education. He is involved in events management as both a content curator and speaker. Events he has worked on include the Telegraph Festival of Education, researchED Scotland, EduMod at the Fringe, and the New York Times Climate Hub at COP26. He sits on

the Leadership Council of the Culture and Democracy Foundation, is a fellow of the RSA, and a board member of the charity Remembering Srebrenica Scotland.

Charlene Tait

Deputy Chief Executive, Scottish Autism

Charlene Tait is Deputy Chief Executive of Scottish Autism. She has worked with and on behalf of autistic people for thirty years. In that time, she has been engaged in direct practice, strategic development and academia.

Her main areas of interest are in family support and enabling quality lifestyles for autistic people, including access to education, employment and leading a happy, healthy, fulfilling life. She also champions the development of practice based research within Scottish Autism and beyond, the central aim of which is, to build an evidence base related to an individualised, personalised approach to practice.



Dr John McDermott

Counselling Psychologist with Studio III, Clinical Services

John works with care providers in Ireland and the UK in the field of autism and intellectual disability. Much of his work involves guiding practitioners around practice or working with parents, while also offering therapy to individuals where appropriate. He provides training with emphasis on systemic and relational dimensions to client wellbeing. John also works with children in care settings who may have experienced developmental trauma.



Eileen Prior FRSA

Executive Director, Connect, formerly SPTC

Eileen Prior FRSA is Executive Director of Connect, formerly SPTC, a long-standing charity which is focussed on strengthening parental engagement in education to improve outcomes for young people.

Eileen joined Connect in 2010 and has been responsible for strengthening the organisation's position as a key source of support, information and advice around family engagement: the charity provides a range of supports and training to parents, parent groups and educators, including professional learning programmes.



Having spent most of her career as a PR professional, both running her own business and as a director of the Scottish operation of Weber Shandwick, Eileen previously served on the GTCS and as a volunteer board member with a range of organisations which promote parental involvement in children's services. She currently serves as a member of SQA's Advisory Council.

Pattie Santelices

Lead Officer, Health and Wellbeing Team, City of Edinburgh Council

Pattie and her team co-ordinate, develop and deliver a range of programmes and training to promote mental health and wellbeing in children, young people, parents and staff across Edinburgh and the Lothians. These include Growing Confidence, Building Resilience, Young Minds Matter, 1 in 5 Child Poverty Work, Rights Respecting Schools, Turn Your Life Around and a range of parent and carer programmes. All the work is focused on inspiring pupils, staff and families of how they can make a difference to their own lives and those around them. For more information email growingconfidence@edinburgh.gov.uk

