

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

Wednesday 16th March

Technology & Innovation Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

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.

Douglas Hutchison

Executive Director of Education, Glasgow City Council

Douglas has worked as a secondary teacher of religious education before transferring to training and working as a teacher of children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural needs. He then retrained as an educational psychologist and became principal psychologist in South Ayrshire Council. After 5 years with Education Scotland as an Inspector he returned to South Ayrshire as Head of Education, then Director of Education and deputy Chief Executive. From January 2022 Douglas took up post as Executive Director of Education for Glasgow City Council.



Alison MacDonald

Chair, Scottish Attachment in Action Education Group

Alison is the Chair of SAIA's Education Group which has been undertaking research on the current picture of attachment-informed practice in education settings across Scotland. Alison was formerly Principal Educational Psychologist in North Lanarkshire and has many years' experience as a practising educational psychologist. Following retirement from her full time post, Alison was interim Lead Officer for the Scottish Attainment Challenge in North Lanarkshire and latterly Health and Wellbeing Lead.



Jennifer Knussen

Head Teacher, Pitteuchar East Primary School

Jennifer Knussen has worked in Primary Education since 1989 and has been a Head Teacher for 12 years. Her initial B.Ed and subsequent Masters Degree both focussed on interpersonal relationships, and how these impact on how a group can fail or function. Her research in this area continues.

A significant amount of Jenn's work has focussed on supporting children who may be experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences, or who may have experienced these in the past, whilst also supporting families. The value of building strong relationships with colleagues in other sectors cannot be underestimated in the success of such support. The strong sense of "institutional trust" Jenn's team build with all adults,



around a child, has also had a profound impact on her 'bairns' and their families. Jenn is a founding member of the Fife ACEs Hub and continues to take an active role in this.

Since 2010, Jenn has advised many audiences on how language can affect change. She is credited as being the person who first described "challenging behaviour" as "distressed behaviour". This has had a profound impact on many people, particularly as more people became aware of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Jenn is currently on a crusade to change the term "vulnerable people" to "valuable people" as only then, she believes, will their true worth be described.

Jenn is a Young Carers Champion for her local area, and has worked with the Scottish Government on aspects of Behaviour in Schools.

"Every kid needs a champion." Rita Pierson, 2013.

Maureen McAteer

Assistant Director, Barnardo's Scotland

Maureen has been a qualified Social Worker for over twenty years, working predominantly in the third sector in a range of children and family settings including; youth justice, youth homelessness and child and family support.

She has held several managerial and strategic roles, including a 2-year secondment to the Early Years Team in Scottish Government and Project Director role with the National Third Sector GIRFEC Team. She is currently an Assistant Director in Barnardo's Scotland leading their implementation of The Promise.



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



Eileen Prior

Executive Director, Connect, formerly SPTC

Eileen Prior is Executive Director of Connect, formerly SPTC, a long-standing charity which is focussed on strengthening parental engagement in learning and 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.

Eileen is currently leading on the roll-out of the Equality and Equity Toolkit, produced with funding from Scottish Government, which is designed to support whole school/nursery communities to work in partnership to address equality in their setting. Eileen was also the strategic lead on Connect's 5-year Partnership Schools Scotland programme.

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.



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.