



Chair Person – Jane Boardman

Jane qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1999 and became a partner at Deloitte in 2007. She works with a wide range of businesses but focuses on global clients in the Energy & Resources and Consumer Products sectors. Jane represents Deloitte's Regional Audit practice on Deloitte's UK Audit Executive, leading on wider strategy – including the recruitment, retention and development of people - as well as having operational responsibility for the regional Public audit practice. Jane has been a pro-bono non-executive director and a member of the audit committee at the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce since 2014, and was President of GMCC from 2017-2019, leading her highly successful 'Future of Skills 2028' presidential campaign.



Pawel Adrjan

Pawel Adrjan is the UK Economist at the Indeed Hiring Lab and a Research Fellow at Regent's Park College, University of Oxford. Before joining Indeed, Pawel spent over a decade in investment banking, holding senior roles in risk management, credit ratings advisory, and treasury at Goldman Sachs and Barclays in London and New York. His research focuses on a wide range of labour market issues such as wages, pensions, and the impact of technology on jobs. Pawel speaks Polish, Spanish and French. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Oxford.



Mike Wade

Mike is Finance Manager at Hodgson Sayers Ltd, a business turning over £16M per annum and employing over 100 people. The business has won national business awards for employee recognition, CSR, apprenticeships, skills training and investment in environmental standard setting. Mike chairs the Durham Committee and is a Council Member of the North East England Chamber. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Business Durham, and Vice Chair of the North East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network. He champions apprenticeships, business ethics, the Real Living Wage, improving working lives, and lifelong learning practices within the SME community. Mike held previous roles in finance, project management and international trade across the UK construction, distribution, manufacturing, and logistics sectors.



Ewart Keep

Professor Ewart Keep holds a chair in Education, Training and Skills at the Department of Education, Oxford University, and directs the Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE). Keep has researched managerial attitudes towards investment in skill, lifelong learning, apprenticeships, workplace training and development, recruitment and selection; higher education policy, youth transitions to the labour market, the different incentives to learn that act upon individuals, the role of skills and work organisation in workplace innovation, and how skills policy is made by governments. He has advised parliamentary committees, the OECD, DfE, UKCES, DBIS and the Welsh and Scottish Governments.



Mary Bousted

Dr Mary Bousted is joint general secretary of the National Education Union. Mary represents the interests of her members to the government, and to a wide variety of other stakeholders. As the education union, NEU leads the debate on key educational issues with strong policy positions on, for example, assessment and curriculum changes; school accountability and school structures. Mary contributes regular articles for newspapers and education journals and appears frequently on national media. She sits on the executive committee of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and was a member of the ACAS board. Mary is also an accomplished public speaker and has debated at the Oxford Union.



Elena Magrini

Elena is an Analyst at Centre for Cities, where she leads the work on education, employment and skills. In her recent research, she has focused on the future of work, looking at how the labour market is changing in terms of demand for jobs, skills and ways of working. She has also done research on inclusive growth and economic inactivity, looking at the role cities can play as places of opportunity. Elena joined the Centre as a Researcher in April 2017. Prior to this, she worked at Universities UK where she conducted research on degree apprenticeships and at the New Local Government Network where she worked on employment and skills, and community asset transfers. She holds an MSc in International Public Policy from University College London and a BSc in International Economics from Bocconi University



Dan Fell

Dan is CEO of Doncaster Chamber of Commerce where he has worked for fifteen years. The Chamber has 700 members that collectively employ over half of Doncaster's private sector workforce. In 2018 the Chamber won the BCC Award for Campaign of the Year for its leadership role in bringing a University Technical College to Doncaster. Doncaster is an economy that is redefining itself. Against a backdrop of industrial decline and despite many systemic challenges, it has risen to become the fourth fastest growing economy in the UK for private sector job creation. Dan is also Chairman of Cast Theatre, a Director of Finance for Enterprise (a not for profit micro lender), and a Trustee of growing Multi Academy Trust.



Sarah Wier OBE

Sarah Weir is Chief Executive of the Design Council. She was previously Executive Producer at the Roundhouse in London. She has held chief executive roles at Waddesdon Manor, The Legacy List and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park charity and senior positions at the Olympic Delivery Authority; Arts Council England and the Almeida Theatre. She started her career as a broker at Lloyd's of London and over a 15 year career went from being the office junior to Managing Director, the first woman to hold this position. She was awarded an OBE for services to the arts (2011), First Woman Awards for public service (2013) and is a Fellow of Birkbeck College (2013). Sarah was awarded an honorary doctorate from University of the Arts London for services to design in 2019.



Jane Grant

Jane Grant is Head of Commercial Development at Edinburgh College, developing business strategies and plans, ensuring their alignment to enterprise and skills provision in Scotland and internationally. Working in partnership with industry and strategic partners, her expertise lies in enterprise and skills, economic development, knowledge transfer, IT and business development, across sectors in private, public and third sector organisations. Jane is on the Board of Directors at Scottish Council for Development & Industry (SCDI) and is a Trustee on the Board of Floris Books. She began her career in academic publishing, moving latterly into IT, economic & business development. She has an MA in History, a PG Dip in Information Technology.



David Hughes

David Hughes became Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges in September 2016. Before that he was CEO at Learning and Work Institute, a leading think tank, research and policy organisation. From 2000 to 2011, David worked in senior roles at the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Prior to that, David worked in the voluntary sector across a wide range of roles and organisations in the UK and Australia. David was Vice-Chair of the East Midlands Regional Assembly in the 1990s. He played a leading role in establishing the new Education and Training Foundation in 2013 and has established and supported several third sector organisations.



Louise Bennett OBE DL

Louise is Chief Executive of Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber, a multi-million pound turnover business, supporting 2,000 member companies, 1,200 learners and a wider client base of 10,000 companies. The chamber commissions and delivers enterprise and education support and employs 100 staff. Louise has worked at the most senior levels in both the private and public sectors, as well as running her own small business. She has a 1st Class Honours degree in Business, an MBA, and is a qualified CIPD (human resource) practitioner.



Dominique Unsworth

For 20 years, Dom has provided creative and cultural consultancy and training, and produced short films and digital art, through Slough-based social enterprise Resource Production. She's passionate about inclusion within the Creative Industries and supports diverse regional talent, crew and artists. Dom is developing new creative sector technical standards in her voluntary role as national SME Apprenticeship Ambassador. She is Arts and Culture representative at the Thames Valley Slough Chamber and a community sector representative on TVBLEP Forum. She established Berkshire Film Office in partnership with six unitaries and develops broadcast commissions alongside a feature film slate. She received a BEM for her services to young people, community groups and the Arts in 2014.



Mike Mills

Mike Mills is Director of Operations at Makefast, a Mid Wales SME employing over 100 people. The business designs and manufactures sunshade systems for the luxury yacht business and safety equipment for the fall arrest markets. Mike's responsibilities include resource planning, HR issues and ensuring production and quality targets are satisfied. He is Vice Chair of the Mid Wales Manufacturing group comprising 140 manufacturing and engineering companies. He is interested in initiatives to help address the skills shortage facing the sector and developing the national workforce.



Katrina Ritchie

Katrina is Head of People & Culture at Gripple Ltd. We are an multi-award winning, employee-owned manufacturing company based in Sheffield. We invent, design and manufacture products for the construction, seismic, civil and agricultural markets. With almost 700 employees across the UK, Europe, USA, Japan and India. We have a unique culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and strong values, where people are at the heart of what we do. The People and Culture team support leaders to develop their teams to be the best they can. By creating tools and programmes to support performance and growth, aligned with our business objectives. At Gripple, we review and recruit people based upon values and behaviours as we believe these drive performance, continuous improvement and employee engagement.



Hannah Essex & Claire Walker

Claire Walker and Hannah Essex are Co-Executive Directors at the British Chambers of Commerce and together lead the BCC's campaigns, communications, public affairs, policy, marketing and senior representative work on behalf of the Chamber Network. Claire and Hannah joined the British Chambers of Commerce as a partnership in September 2018 from social enterprise Teach First, where they co-led the Communications Department. Claire covered Hannah's maternity leave and they formed their partnership when Hannah returned in 2015. As one of very few Executive level job-share partnerships in the country, they are considered trail-blazers in the concept of co-leadership.



Jane Gratton

Jane is Head of People Policy at the BCC. She has worked at the BCC since 2017 and has led on business environment policy including skills, transport and infrastructure. She was the BCC's Planning Policy Fellow from 2015-2017. Prior to joining the BCC, Jane was Deputy Chief Executive at the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, heading up the policy team and overseeing strategic partnerships.