

Luton's Fairness Taskforce Speakers



Rev. Dr Trevor Adams, Pastor and mentor,

Dr. Trevor W. Adams is an award-winning professional practitioner. He has a master's degree in Individual and Organisational Development from the University of Westminster. He also has a Professional doctorate (DProf) in Practical Theology, from Anglia Ruskin University. For over 20 plus years, Dr. Adams been involved in addressing issues of inequity and inequalities in Luton.

This has been through initiating, leading and delivering various social action initiatives. Each initiative was designed to bridge critical gaps in service provisions for marginalised individuals and communities. Dr. Adams now lecturers, mentors and coaches in this area. He is also the Programme Head of a Degree Foundation Programme, at a College in London, for adults returning to education. He lectures on self-directed learning and leadership.



Cllr Hazel Simmons MBE, Council Leader, Luton Council

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Cllr Simmons has been the leader of Luton Council since 2007. She is a ward councillor for Lewsey where she was first elected in 1991. Cllr Simmons is also the executive member for communities and sits on the board of SEMLEP (South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership). Hazel has always been keen on sport provision and led on the development of Inspire Sports village.



Robin Porter, CEO, Luton Council

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Robin has been the Chief Executive of Luton Council and London Luton Airport Ltd since May 2019. Prior to this he was the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Customer and Commercial Services. Before joining the council Robin worked in the private sector as a senior manager.



Dr Nasreen Ali, Reader in Public Health Equality, University of Bedfordshire

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Nasreen is a Reader in Public Health Equality. Her teaching and research focuses focus on an intersectional approach to looking at the way in which gender, ethnicity and health impact on how Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups experience health and illness.

She is the Editor in Chief for the Journal of Diversity and Equality in health and Care and also leads The MSc Public Health course at the University. She has previously held academic roles at the University of Manchester, University of Leeds and University of York.



Helen Goulden, CEO, The Young Foundation

Twitter: @The_Young_Fdn

Helen is Chief Executive Officer of The Young Foundation, leading a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, innovators and investors to support stronger communities across the UK.

In 2019, Helen launched the new Institute for Community Studies; creating a platform for institutions to better understand and more equitably involve local communities in the development of policies and practice.

Prior to joining The Young Foundation, Helen spent nine years at Nesta as Executive Director, supporting, funding and scaling innovation in civil society, social tech, government, arts & education. She is a former board member of the Behavioural Insights Team and Trustee of Big Education Trust.

www.youngfoundation.org

www.icstudies.org.uk



Karen Perkins, CEO, Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation

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Twitter: @Karenperkins17

Karen has been CEO of BLCF since February 2021, and leads the strategic vision of the foundation, along with a focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Karen spent the prior 16 years the Culture Trust in Luton overseeing developments such as The Hat District and Wardown House Museum & Gallery.



Dr Louise Grant, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, University of Bedfordshire

Twitter: @Louisejgrant

Louise has worked in academic social work since 2008, prior having worked as a family social worker and then and then a team manager in Children and Families Social Work. Her research focuses on improving working conditions for those in social work and others in the helping professions.



Adam Divney, Director of Community Engagement and legal, Luton Council

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Adam who was as born, raised and educated in Luton has worked in various positions and service areas, including community development, health and commissioning and most recently in transformation and ICT, during his years with the council. He has also recently completed a Senior Leaders MBA at Cranfield School of Management.

Kamal Acharya, Community Researcher, University of Bedfordshire

Rifaat Mahmood, Community Researcher, University of Bedfordshire

Co-chairs for the conference



Marek Lubelski, Social Justice Manager, Luton Council

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Marek is the Social Justice Manager at Luton Council, and leads our new Social Justice Unit team driving forward the Council's work on Equality and Diversity, Community Cohesion and Development, and Social Inclusion. He has experience of a range of local, national and international roles in community development and policy.

Before joining local government, he worked in the voluntary and community sector, as well as in adult, further and higher education. Throughout his career in Luton he has sought to enable community led change for social justice, introducing and leading innovation programmes as such neighbourhood partnerships, participatory budgeting and social prescription.



Chimeme Egburah, Public Health Services Manager Luton Council

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Chimeme Egburah has worked in Local Government for over twenty years as a public health specialist. Her work entails focusing on the wider determinants of health, children and young people and more recently Public Health healthcare. Chimeme has experience in management and consulting, team building and strategic implementation of public health policies across non-traditional services such as housing.

She has a good understanding of health improvement interventions; implementing key policies that support the surveillance and monitoring of local public health and is confident in collaborating across various sectors, including private and voluntary sector.