

NHS England Midlands and East Regional Safeguarding Conference Speaker Biographies

#BeTheDifference @NHSEnglandMidE

Sara Rowbotham Rochdale Borough Council

Sara trained as a social worker and was HIV specialist social worker for five years before moving into prevention in 1999.

In 2003 ,whilst working for the NHS ,Sara set up Crisis

Intervention Team to provide one to one support for young people who were identified as being vulnerable in relation to their sexual health and within months the Team began to identify young people who were involved in or vulnerable to sexual exploitation. For the next 8 years Sara tried to bring this issue to the attention of statutory services with little or no meaningful response.

In 2012 Sara was forced to “whistleblow”, seeking support from her local MP and eventually being called to give evidence to the Home Office Select Committee enquiry in to CSE.

She was made redundant from the NHS in 2014 and is currently serving as a local Councillor for Middleton North Ward of Rochdale Borough Council.

Sara was recently portrayed by Maxine Peake in the BBC drama 3 Girls.



Manjit Darby

Director of Nursing & Quality, NHS England (Midlands & East - Central Midlands) and Programme Advisor for Nursing and Midwifery Revalidation for England

Throughout Manjit's NHS career to date she has had a commitment to the delivery of compassionate, high quality practice and standards and believes she has demonstrated this commitment as a nurse, a clinical leader and as a senior manager in a variety of leadership roles in the last 20 years.

Manjit qualified as a general nurse in 1987 and after working in acute medicine and terminal care undertook mental health nurse training in 1992, working in a variety of inpatient and community settings.

After several management roles Manjit took up the post of Director of Clinical Services in an inner city PCT, working successfully across traditional health and social care boundaries in partnership with other agencies. During this time she successfully gained a Master's Degree in Health Care Management.

Manjit left the NHS for four years in 2007 and worked as an independent management consultant with mainly NHS organisations supporting service reviews and investigations. She returned to the NHS and worked as Assistant Clinical Director in the PCT cluster before taking up the post of Director of Nursing and Quality within NHS England in January 2014 having worked in this role on an Interim basis since July 2013.

Manjit is also a Queen's Nurse and sits as a Registrant Member on the NMC Fitness to Practice Panel. Outside of work Manjit is a serving Magistrate on the Leicester Bench and former Chair of an Independent Foster Panel.



Nicola Benyahia
Director – Families for Life

Nicola Benyahia has extensive experience within the social care sector, spanning over 25 years with extensive work in the context of mental health provision. She is a fully qualified, registered BACP (British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy) Counsellor with specific experience in mental health, brain injury and most recently working and counselling young people aged 14 to 25 years old. As a mother personally affected by the impact of violent radicalisation processes in her own family, she decided to give her own experiences a voice and recently stepped forward for other families sharing similar problems.

Following the death of her son in Syria in 2015 she gained specialist training in De-radicalisation, family based intervention counselling and prevention methods for which she founded a counselling organisation, 'Families For Life', which aims to support families through the psychological and counter radicalisation process. She hopes, through her organisation, to support and empower families to combat the shame of radicalisation and provide them with a platform for their voices to be heard.

Nicola has featured in both national and international media on various topics related to prevention and intervention with violent radicalisation. Her first exclusive interview with the BBC 'An extremist in the Family' won the Sandford St Martins 2017 interview of the year award.

She has since appeared on various other media platforms; PBS, RT News, Time Magazine, The New York Times, Al-Arabiya, The Interdependent, Good Morning Britain and This Morning. She has also participated in a candid interview on Hard Talk with Stephen Sackur. In one of her latest contributions she has written a foreword for a recently published report on 'Spotting the Signs of Extremism' by the Henry Jackson Society Think Tank. Her most recent input was an article she produced for the Opinion section of the New York Times, titled 'My son, the jihadist.'

She continues to speak and present at both various national and international events across the world and is currently a contributing organisation working with Hedayah, on guiding principles for practitioners working within CVE. She hopes in her continued efforts and work to create a humanistic understanding of violent extremism and begin to provide genuine opportunities for families to engage and participate in future policy making.

Chief Inspector Bill Knopp**Regional Prevent Coordinator at East Midlands Special Operations Unit**

Bill has been a police officer for 27 years and the last 3 have been working in Prevent. He has a background working in Neighbourhood Policing. Bill is a qualified Hostage and Crisis Negotiator and has a particular interest in resolving grievances through dialogue.

Alex Krasodomski-Jones**Demos**

Alex Krasodomski-Jones is a researcher at CASM, the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media at Demos. He has lead research efforts into digital politics, disinformation, conspiracy theories and the hidden corners of the web.

Matt Tapp**Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement, Leicestershire Police**

Matt has spent 26 years working in the field of police communications, both as a consultant and as an in-house director of service.

A former newspaper journalist, Matt began his police career in Warwickshire in 1992 as a Police Press officer and has since worked in 38 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales, developing and implementing communications strategies to manage some of the UK's most critical and highest profile issues and criminal enquiries, including the Soham murders in Cambridgeshire in 2002.

As a consultant, he has developed communications structures, systems and working practices in law enforcement agencies throughout England and Wales and in several countries overseas including Estonia, the Netherlands and in Trinidad and Tobago.

He joined Leicestershire Police in 2014 and has since managed the communications relating to several high profile and complex issues involving the force including the investigation into former Leicester MP Lord Janner and the rape and murder of 15-year-old schoolgirl Kayleigh Haywood.

His film, Kayleigh's Love Story, which went online in January 2017, seeks to raise greater awareness among children and adults of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. It has been viewed more than 36 million times worldwide and has won eight national industry awards. More importantly, it has sparked disclosures from children and adults around the world.

He is currently producing another film, Breck's Last Game, aimed at highlighting the dangers posed to children online.

AlterEgo

AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd is a 'not-for-profit' Social Enterprise. We are one of the UK's leading Applied Theatre companies - using theatre and related media to illustrate the narrative, kick-start conversation and inspire change around complex social issues. We work with schools, colleges, universities, police forces, social services, LSCBs, charities, borough councils, county councils, private businesses, national government agencies, the military and NGOs to deliver productions, workshops and training for young people and adults both in the UK and abroad.

Dr Bryony Farrant **Head of Support and Safeguarding** **IICSA**

Dr Bryony Farrant is a Chartered Counselling Psychologist and the Head of Support and Safeguarding at the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. She leads a multi-disciplinary team of health and social work professionals and is responsible for the safety and well-being of members of the public who engage with the Inquiry. She instigated the adoption of a trauma-informed approach within the Inquiry, the principles of which inform the organisation's engagement with victims and survivors. Her previous roles have been within the NHS, private healthcare, HM Prison and Probation Service and the third sector. Bryony has a small private practice in which she specialises in the treatment of psychological trauma.

Sir Alan Wood CBE

Alan held the post of Director of Education in two London local authorities.

Alan was Chief Executive of The Learning Trust (TLT), which delivered all of the statutory education services provided by Hackney Council. In that period 2002-12 Education in Hackney transformed from the worst in the England to one of the highest performing and now receives national recognition for its work.

Between 2006-16 Alan was the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services in Hackney ensuring the implementing of the nationally acclaimed model of Reclaiming Social Work.

Alan was national President of the Association of Directors of Children Services (ADCS) in 2014-15.

He was appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the Training and Development Agency for Teachers and was a member of the Advisory Group for the Education Funding Agency.

Alan was asked by the Secretary of State for Education to review the inadequate arrangements for Children Social Care in Doncaster (2013) and Birmingham (2014) and has co-authored reports with Professor Sir Julian Le Grand (LSE) proposing a new model of building capacity in the children social care sector by combining the work of the statutory, commercial and voluntary sectors.

In 2013 Alan was appointed as Commissioner for Children Social Care in Doncaster to set up a new Trust to provide these services. The Doncaster Children Services Trust became operational from September 2014 and was judged Good by Ofsted in November 2017.

In 2015 Alan was appointed as a Commissioner in the Tower Hamlets to take responsibility for corporate governance of the council.

Alan was a member of the DfE's Innovation Investment Programme Board and the Partners in Practice Expert Panel.

In January 2016 Alan was appointed to undertake a fundamental review of Local Children Safeguarding Boards including Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Overview Panels. Subsequently the legal framework covering these areas has been amended by an Act of Parliament to implement his recommendations.

In July 2016 the Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice appointed Alan to be Chair of the Youth Custody Improvement Board and to report on the quality of the provision being made in YOIs and STCs.

In August 2016 Alan was appointed by the Secretary of State to Chair an Advisory Board to the DfE on the role of local authorities in providing services to children.

In April 2017 the Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice appointed Alan to be a member of the Youth Justice Board.

In April 2017 Alan was appointed to be the Independent Chair of the Children's Improvement Board established by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets after Ofsted judged the services to be inadequate.

In June 2017 Alan was appointed to be a member of the DfE's Expert Investment Board established by the Secretary of State to allocate the new Strategic School Improvement Fund.

In November 2017 Alan was appointed by the Secretary of State to be Chair of the Residential Care Leadership Board.

Alan is a Master's level Executive Coach and coaches and mentored successful senior executives in the public, voluntary and commercial sectors.

Public Life

In 2011 Alan was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to education and local government. In 2018 Alan was awarded a Knighthood in the New Year's Honours list for services to children social care and education.