

Closing the Gap: Making Health Inequalities Everyone's business

Conference Speakers Biographies



Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities & Pensioners' Rights, Scottish Government



[@AlexNeilSNP](https://twitter.com/AlexNeilSNP)

Alex Neil, MSP for Airdrie and Shotts, was born in Patna, Ayrshire in 1951. He attended Dundee University, where he graduated with a degree in economics. After graduating, he became the senior researcher for the Labour Party in Scotland, until 1976 when he left Labour to help form the Scottish Labour Party. After the 1979 general election he worked in America before returning to Scotland and forming his own economic consultancy business. In 1985 he joined the SNP and stood as their candidate in the 1989 Glasgow Central by-election.

After election to the Scottish Parliament in 1999 he became firstly SNP spokesperson for social justice before chairing the Parliament's Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee from 2000-2003 and again 2004 till 2007. From 2007 Alex was vice-Convenor of the European and External Relations Committee and member of the Finance Committee. He was also co-Convenor of the Cross-Party Group on the Scottish Economy and on the Council of Europe's Local and Regional Authorities Association. In February 2009 he became the Scottish Government Minister for Housing and Communities. In May 2011, Alex was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment. In September 2012 he became Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing.

He was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights in November 2014. Alex is married with one son, and lives in Ayr.



Claire Stevens, Chief Officer, Voluntary Health Scotland



[@VHSComms](https://twitter.com/VHSComms)

Claire Stevens was appointed Chief Officer at Voluntary Health Scotland in August 2012 and has since led a programme of change that has seen VHS build a reputation for being a collaborative and influential network of Scotland's voluntary health organisations. During this time VHS led the development of the Engagement Matrix tool to strengthen NHS and third sector engagement and launched Living in the Gap, the only Scottish study to examine the third sector's contribution to tackling health inequalities.

Previously, Claire was part of the Scottish Government's Getting it Right for Every Child team, leading their engagement with the third sector for three years. She was instrumental in

the initiation of the National Third Sector GIRFEC project. Claire has carried out a wide range of executive and non-executive roles in Scotland's third sector over a 30 year period, including 10 years as Community Service Volunteers Director for Scotland and 3 years as CEO at Scottish Council for Single Homeless. She is a previous Convenor of the ACOSVO Board, a current Board member of Action on Smoking and Health Scotland and a member of the BBC Children in Need Scotland Appeals Committee.



Hilda Campbell, Chief Executive, COPE



[@COPEScotland](https://twitter.com/COPEScotland)

Hilda Campbell's career started when she was around 9 and her mum was diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus and her gran died in hospital, and when her belongings came home they had been thrown in a bin bag like so much rubbish and chocolate gingers she had brought her gran were all loose in the bag and melted. She felt her mum was a guinea pig constantly being given tests and poked and prodded. Young as she was a part of her decided this is not the way it should be, services should be kinder and more considerate and work with people treating them with respect and not just as an interesting 'case'. Her mum died when she was 15, more to do with side effects to the treatment than the disease itself.

Originally she had planned to study biochemistry to find a cure for SLE however, ended up studying social sciences, frustrated with the approaches offered to people in distress she felt there needed to be some new ways of working, she went onto study psychiatric nursing however, this too did not offer the opportunities to find the change she felt that was needed in human services. Then she went to Drumchapel and with the community and other health professionals keen on finding new ways of working COPE was born. A community led service in West Glasgow committed to finding new ways of addressing mental/emotional distress and promoting resilience and self-management through the principles of co-production and design, 24 years on, COPE Scotland has supported more than 20,000 people, they don't want to build an empire, they only want to share with others what they have learned. That new ways of delivering services and working with people with lived experience are possible and together answers can be found.

On Twitter:



Anne Jarvie CBE, Commissioner, Commission on Housing and Wellbeing



[@ShelterScotland](https://twitter.com/ShelterScotland)

Following a distinguished career in nursing, Anne served as the Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland until her retirement in September 2004. She subsequently chaired the Expert Group commissioned by NHS Lothian to consider services provided to older people. She also served on the Review Group which undertook the Independent Review of Free Personal and Nursing Care in Scotland, published in 2008. Anne Jarvie was appointed as a Non-Executive member of the NHS 24 Board in 2007 and she is Chairman of the Clinical Governance Committee, Chair of Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector, Chair of the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland and she is also a member of the Marie Curie Scottish Advisory Board.

Most recently Anne was a member of the Commission on Housing and Wellbeing, an independent body that was set up by Shelter Scotland and which published its final report: A blueprint for Scotland's future, in June 2015. www.housingandwellbeing.org



Professor Carol Tannahill, Director, Glasgow Centre for Population Health



[@theGCPH](https://twitter.com/theGCPH)

Carol is the Director of the GCPH, having been involved in establishing the organisation and leading its development since 2004. She contributes to all the GCPH work programmes; and is a Principal

Investigator on the GoWell programme, investigating the impacts of urban regeneration on health.

Carol is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health and Honorary Professor with the University of Glasgow and Glasgow Caledonian University, and has contributed to a wide range of international, national and local public health policy and strategy developments.



Conference Chair: Trisha McAuley OBE, Director, McAuley Policy & Management Ltd



[@ScotConsumer](https://twitter.com/ScotConsumer)

Trisha McAuley is a consumer and public interest expert, a portfolio non-executive director and a management consultant. She was latterly the Senior Director for Scotland of Consumer Futures, formerly Consumer Focus. Trisha has twenty years' experience as a

successful senior leader in consumer affairs in Scotland and the UK, developing consumer policy, and advising government, regulators, service providers and businesses on how best to engage with, and take account of the needs of consumers and service users, particularly those who are most disadvantaged or vulnerable.

Trisha is a Non-executive Director of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership. She is the public interest member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland (ICAS) Discipline Board and a member of the Ofgem Gas Network Innovation Competition Expert Panel. She recently been appointed to the Board of Northern Ireland Water. Trisha has also established her own consultancy (McAuley Policy and Management Ltd), providing strategic advice on how companies, governments and service providers can add value by embedding the public interest into their governance and operations. Trisha is widely recognised as a national consumer champion and she was awarded an OBE in the 2015 New Year Honours list for services to consumer affairs.



Political Panel Session Chair: David Robertson, Head of Public Relations, EMEA, Illumina



[@VHSComms](https://twitter.com/VHSComms)

David is Head of Public Relations, EMEA, for Illumina - the global leader in genomics. As such he is responsible for communications linking stakeholders to the company across Europe, Middle East,

Africa and CIS.

He is a former BBC New Presenter and Correspondent and reported from around the world including covering the Bosnian War from Sarajevo. He was an original member of the BBC News Channel presentation team and main anchor for BBC Reporting Scotland.

Before joining Illumina, David was Head of Communications and Marketing for the Cell Therapy Catapult – a leader in helping to commercialise the UK cell therapy industry to deliver health and wealth. David has also served as Leader External Communications, Europe Middle East & Africa for Thermo Fisher Scientific, a US global multi-billion dollar science company and prior to this, David was Head of Communications, Marketing & Public Affairs for the Wise Group, a social enterprise aiming to provide work focused solutions to social exclusion through employment, regeneration and sustainable development.

David is a Board Director of Voluntary Health Scotland, Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and is currently based in London and Glasgow.



Political Panel Member: Jim Eadie MSP



[@JimEadie_msp](https://twitter.com/JimEadie_msp)

Jim Eadie's campaigning successes include the first ever All Party UK Warm Homes Group to campaign against fuel poverty, influencing legislation on behalf of the nursing profession and securing millions of pounds of funding for life sciences in Scotland.

He was the Head of medicines industry trade body ABPI Scotland for 5 years until 2007, representing a sector worth 300 million pounds to the Scottish Economy.

He has previously worked for the Royal College of Nursing in the constituency and for Scottish Television at Westminster. Since 2008 Jim has run his own consulting business working for clients in the corporate and voluntary sectors and was elected as an MSP in May 2011.



Political Panel Member: Jim Hume MSP



[@jimhumeLibDem](https://twitter.com/jimhumeLibDem)

Jim Hume MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Health and Housing. Jim was first elected in 2007 to represent the South Scotland region. As health spokesperson he's led the party's policy on mental health and the future of primary care services.

On health inequalities Jim says, "It's well known that there's a close link between deprivation and poor health. But we must not accept that where you live should determine your health chances, and that should always be the driver when we set about tackling health inequality and Scotland's health record".



Political Panel Member: Jenny Marra MSP



[@JennyMarra](https://twitter.com/JennyMarra)

Jenny was born in Dundee in 1977 and educated at St John's High School before going on to study history at St Andrews University from where she won a scholarship to Emory University in Atlanta, USA. Jenny returned to her home town and spent five years promoting Dundee as a location for students, research and investment as Head of Press at Dundee University.

After a stint as the Labour MEP's spokesperson in Brussels and Strasbourg, Jenny took a Scots law degree and qualified in both Scots and English law and Scottish legal practice.

She is a member of the GMB, Community the Union and Amnesty International

Jenny served as the Shadow Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs and was appointed Shadow Minister for Youth Employment and Deputy Finance in June 2013.



Political Panel Member: Nanette Milne MSP

Nanette was educated at Aberdeen High School for Girls, and qualified as a doctor at Aberdeen University in 1965. She trained initially in Anaesthetics, gaining her fellowship in 1969. She took a few years out in the early '70's to bring up her two young children, and thereafter worked part-time in cancer related research.

She joined the Conservative Party in 1974, moving from grass roots activist and branch committee member to constituency chairman and president, and then was vice-chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party from 1989-1993. She contested the Aberdeen South seat in the 1999 Scottish Parliamentary election, and the Gordon seat for Westminster in 2001 and for Holyrood in 2003, when she came second to the Liberal-Democrats, increasing the Conservatives' share of the vote. In 2007, Nanette was once re-elected as Member of the

Scottish Parliament for the North East of Scotland.

From 1988-1999 she was the Aberdeen City Councillor for Cults ward. She sat on the Planning Committee for 8 years, during which time she developed an interest in environmental issues, and became a founder trustee of the Aberdeen Countryside Project. She got involved in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, and is still an enthusiastic trustee and "Friend" of the festival.

She also became a trustee of the Aberdeen-Gomel Trust, formed after the Chernobyl disaster, and is still an active member of the Friends of Gomel.