



Question Time Panel Biographies

During today's conference you will have the chance to question a panel of people who are at the heart of volunteering during a "Question Time" session about the future of and challenges and opportunities facing the voluntary sector in Edinburgh.

(Listed in alphabetical order by surname)

Colin Beck

Service Manager, Health and Social Care, City of Edinburgh Council

Colin is Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults Service Manager for the Department of Health and Social Care in Edinburgh City Council. He has responsibility for mental health social work services, mental health officer services, mental health accommodation services and the adult protection team. In addition Colin manages the department's addiction services and works closely with ADDE (Action on alcohol and Drugs in Edinburgh). The Departments "shared lives" services are managed by Colin. These services include carers who offer long term or overnight or day care in their own homes, supported lodgings and tenancies and recruitment of befrienders and volunteers in social care. Colin chairs the Departments "Investing in Volunteering Group". This group hopes to achieve the award for Health and Social Care and encourage and support other areas/departments to make this investment. Colin is a Volunteer with NHS Lothian at the Western General Hospital.

Harriet Eadie

Director, Volunteer Centre Edinburgh



Harriet is responsible for leading and managing Volunteer Centre Edinburgh and its team of staff and many volunteers. Harriet has worked in volunteering for 20 years and been heavily involved with the development of the volunteering strategy both nationally and locally. Volunteer Centre Edinburgh is the lead body for volunteering in the city and part of a network of 32 Volunteer Centres across Scotland.

Harriet works with many other committees, networks and partnerships including Edinburgh Compact Partnership; Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership; Health Inequalities Standing Group; National Volunteering Forum for Older People and the Volunteer Development Scotland/Volunteer Centres Partnership Management Group.

Bill Howat

Chair of Volunteer Development Scotland



Bill retired as Chief Executive of Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) in November 2005. During his spell at the Comhairle, Bill Led the teams that developed the concept of the Energy Innovation Zone and the CPPs regeneration strategy Creating Communities of the Future.

Before joining the Comhairle Bill had a varied career covering 20 years as a civil servant in the Scottish Office/Executive, and 10 as an academic.

His duties as a civil servant included local government finance and functions, legal aid, nature conservation, and European Structural Funds.

His academic years included five years at the Planning Exchange and five as a Lecturer at the Glasgow College of Technology (now Glasgow Caledonian University).

Since retiring Bill does voluntary work as Chair of Volunteer Development Scotland. He is also involved in some consultancy work and short term projects that have included; -leading an independent team of experts to advise Scottish Government Ministers on the performance of their spending programmes against priorities – published May 2007, ‘Choices for a Purpose’ (known as The Howat Report), a Best Value Review for Orkney Islands Council; a member of the Taskforce that advised the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the reform of Local Government and Interim Head of Strategy and Performance at the Scottish Police Services Authority.

His recent work includes leading a budget review for Renfrewshire Council, advising ACPOS on public finance, East Ayrshire Council on economic development, and several private firms on Public Affairs.

Dr Eleanor Logan

LPM Ltd



Eleanor has had a career in and supporting for the voluntary sector for the last 13 years. She never intended to work in the sector but whilst studying for a PhD in Chemistry spent a lot of time volunteering for Epilepsy Scotland.

This involvement grew into a paid position following completion of her degree and since then she has been active in a variety of roles from fundraising for a local epilepsy organisation through to running the Voluntary Action Fund.

Eleanor has also worked for the National Lottery Charities Fund and Volunteer Development Scotland.

Eleanor is now self employed, specializing in change management and supporting organizational development with clients across the volunteering and public sector. But she is still volunteering. Current voluntary commitments include helping out at her son's school, a fundraising committee for Epilepsy Scotland, membership of the UK Grants Committee for Comic Relief, membership of the Audience Council of the BBC Trust and she is about to become chair of the Scottish Appeals and Advisory Committee for Children in Need.

Steven Marwick

Chair Volunteer Centre Edinburgh



Steven has been chair of the VCE for 3 years. He has volunteered including as a befriender, volunteer youth worker and various volunteering roles in the Church of Scotland.

In his paid job he is Director of Evaluation Support Scotland which works with voluntary organisations and funders so they can measure the impact of their work. Steven has a wide experience in policy-making, voluntary sector funding and supporting evaluation. His previous jobs include working for the Community Fund, the Government and as a freelance consultant.

Tim Montgomery

Director of Operations, Royal Edinburgh Hospital & Associated Services



Tim is general manager of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh's psychiatric hospital providing inpatient facilities for acute adult mental health, psychiatric rehabilitation, older people, children and adolescents and forensic patients. In addition to inpatient services, the Royal Edinburgh also offers community and outpatient's provision for post traumatic stress, eating disorders, psychology and psychotherapy. Volunteering offers many opportunities for the staff, patients and visitors of the hospital and is an important part of their care programme in supporting recovery from mental illness as well as promoting citizenship and community involvement for staff, visitors and patients alike.

Tim chairs iGIVE (the Volunteering Strategy Implementation Group) and has been responsible for the establishment of a volunteering hub at the hospital which is run by the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh, complementary to the hospital's own Volunteer Services Manager. The range of volunteering opportunities has been extended and staff are able to identify opportunities for patients and encourage volunteering as one part of their recovery journey. Linking with the City's employability strategy, volunteering supports the development of skills and confidence.