











CEL CIS' Strategic Advisory Board

Biographies – 2021

	<p>Professor Alexis Jay, OBE Independent Chair - CEL CIS' Strategic Advisory Board</p> <p>Professor Jay spent over 30 years in local government in deprived parts of Scotland, including as Director of Social Services and Housing. In 2005, she was invited by the Scottish Government to set up the first independent inspection body for social services in Scotland, and in 2011 she became the Scottish Government's first Chief Social Work Adviser. She retired from that post in 2013. She is Chair of the Life Changes Trust and the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland, based in Strathclyde University, where she is a Visiting Professor.</p> <p>Alexis is the author of the Independent Inquiry report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, and is now Chair of the IICSA Independent Inquiry Into Child Sexual Abuse in England and Wales.</p> <p>Alexis was awarded an OBE by the Queen in the 2012 Birthday Honours List, and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Strathclyde in 2015.</p>
	<p>Neil Hunter, Principal Reporter/Chief Executive Officer Vice-Chair - CEL CIS' Strategic Advisory Board</p> <p>Neil Hunter became Principal Reporter/Chief Executive of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration in April 2011. Neil has held previous operational and strategic posts across Social Work and Health Care Services in Glasgow/Greater Glasgow and Clyde.</p> <p>Until December 2010 Neil was the Director of West Glasgow Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP). For 5 years prior to that he led the Addictions Partnership for the City of Glasgow. Both of these posts were joint NHS/Local Authority appointments.</p> <p>Neil is Vice Chair of Rosemount Lifelong Learning, a community based organisation in Royston, North Glasgow, A Board Member of Alcohol Focus Scotland and Council Member of We are With You (Scotland).</p>
	<p>Prof Ian Rivers, Associate Principal and Executive Dean HaSS – University of Strathclyde</p> <p>Ian is an internationally respected authority on bullying behaviour in schools and is credited with being the first person to study homophobic bullying in the UK. For nearly 30 years, he has worked with colleagues from around the world to better understand the ways in which bullying affects children and young people, their families and peers. Ian recently served on two federal expert panels in the US and helped develop a uniform definition of bullying for use in public health surveillance as well as guidance for teachers and health professionals on the links between bullying and suicide. He is the lead author of <i>Bullying: A Handbook for Educators and Parents</i> (Greenwood/Praeger, 2007) and the author of <i>Homophobic Bullying: Research and Theoretical Perspectives</i> (Oxford, 2011). He is co-editor of <i>Bullying: Experiences and Discourses of Gender and Sexuality</i> (Routledge, 2013), and he co-authored <i>Mental Health in the Digital Age</i> with Sheri Bauman (Palgrave MacMillan, 2015). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the British Psychological Society, the American Psychological Association and the Academy of Social Sciences.</p> <p>Outside the University, Ian is past Chair of the Scottish Council of Deans of Education (2018-2020), and chaired the Scottish Government's working group on Recording and Monitoring of Bullying in Schools. He also serves on the</p>

	<p>National Board of LGBT Youth Scotland, is a Trustee of TIE and LGBT History Month, and a national Patron of FFLAG.</p>
	<p>Malcolm Graham, Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) for Crime and Operations - Police Scotland</p> <p>Malcolm Graham became Deputy Chief Constable, Police Scotland in April 2019. He has oversight of Organised Crime & Counter Terrorism, Major Crime, Local Crime, Public Protection, Intelligence Support and Operational Support.</p> <p>Previously as Assistant Chief Constable in 2019, he took on the portfolio responsible for leading the Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing, developing new approaches to working with other Scottish public services to achieve better outcomes for communities. In August 2016, he was appointed ACC Strategic Change and led the development of Police Scotland's 10-year strategy, serving a Changing Scotland. This included unprecedented, nationwide public consultation and he has been responsible for driving operational delivery and change over the last 3 years.</p>
	<p>Sharon McAlees, Head of Service – Children's Services & Criminal Justice – Inverclyde Council</p> <p>Sharon McAlees is the Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children's Services and Criminal Justice, has a background in local authority social work, and has many years' experience as a practitioner, Manager and Head of Service in Inverclyde.</p> <p>She has been a key driver in delivering 'Nurturing Inverclyde' through a whole system approach that is embedded in improving outcomes for our most vulnerable population through better universal services and better targeted services for the most vulnerable children and their families.</p> <p>She is involved with Social Work Scotland and has a great passion to promote value based social work practice that focusses on reducing inequalities.</p>
	<p>Dr Edward Sosu, Reader in School of Education - University of Strathclyde</p> <p>Dr Sosu is a Reader, and currently Research Director in the School of Education. He has a strong interest in quantitative methods and in addressing educational issues from a psychological perspective. His current research is predominantly focused on understanding how socioeconomic disadvantage influences educational and psychological trajectories from early childhood.</p> <p>Edward is the lead author of the influential Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on <i>Closing The Attainment Gap In Scottish Education</i>: (http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/education-attainment-scotland-full.pdf), and the research on <i>Widening Access to Higher Education for Students from Economically Disadvantaged Backgrounds: What Works and Why?</i></p>
	<p>Tracey Wright - University of Strathclyde</p> <p>Tracey is incredibly passionate about Education and in particular, how it can be utilised as a means of resilience and empowerment for those leaving care. Tracey is aware from her own personal experience that stigma and low expectations of those with care experience acts as a barrier to accessing education and pursuing goals.</p> <p>Tracey first exceeded her own expectations by completing a degree in Social Work. Her professional experience includes working as a social worker for 12 years in children and families, criminal justice and a 2-year secondment as Whole Systems Co-ordinator focused on domestic abuse and youth offending.</p>

	<p>Tracey's passion for criminal justice sparked a return to education to undertake a MSc in Criminal Justice and Penal Change and then a graduate entry law degree at the University of Strathclyde. She has now completed a Diploma in Professional Legal Practice at the University of Glasgow and secured a traineeship with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>Outwith University Tracey has been engaged in the Independent Care Review, producing research on Parents' experience of the care system. Tracey also works with the Resilience Learning Partnership to encourage trauma-informed practice and challenging negative expectations of care experienced young people.</p> <p>Tracey brings her unique range of professional, educational and personal experience and insight to the CELCIS' Board to advocate for positive change.</p>
	<p>Jo Derrick, Chief Executive Officer – Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (Staf)</p> <p>Jo is CEO of Staf, Scotland's membership organisation for all those involved in the lives of young people leaving care and has nearly 20 years' experience in the fostering and children's services sector at both an operational and strategic leadership level and has a particular interest in organisational leadership in creating trauma-informed cultures to support relationship-based practice.</p> <p>In addition to her role at Staf, Jo has a particular interest in leadership in Governance and currently serves as a Vice-Convener of Children in Scotland, Vice-President of IFCO, the International Foster Care Organisation, and as a non-executive board director of Children's Hearings Scotland.</p> <p>Jo is a member of the CELCIS Advisory Board as a representative of the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS).</p>
	<p>Fiona Dyer, Interim Director, Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ)</p> <p>Fiona is the Deputy Director of CYCJ and works with Claire in leading the centre. This involves supporting professionals from all disciplines who work with young people on the cusp of or involved in offending by promoting best practice based on up-to-date evidence and research. Before joining CYCJ Fiona was seconded to the Scottish Government youth justice team for three years, and prior to this worked for ten years as a social worker and social work manager within the fields of youth and criminal justice.</p>
	<p>Claire Burns, Director (Acting) - CELCIS</p> <p>Claire had a long career in children and families' social work practice before stepping into various learning and development roles. Claire was a senior lecturer with the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) leading on a 10 year change programme to support registration and qualification levels across residential child care nationally.</p> <p>Claire has been the Director of the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) since 1 April 2020 having undertaken a number of other roles within CELCIS prior to this.</p> <p>Claire's key commitment in leading the organisation is to ensure that children, young people and their families get the early help and support required and the highest quality alternative care experiences if needed.</p> <p>Claire is dedicated to ensuring that we really know, understand and apply what works best when it comes to supporting looked after children, their families and</p>

	<p>care leavers - drawing on best research, the expertise of our workforces and, critically, children, families and carers themselves.</p>
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Claire advocates for the knowledge and evidence of the 'what' and 'how' of implementation to be included in legislation, policy and guidance and applied across support services.