

National Career Council Members' Biographies

Dr Deirdre Hughes OBE - Chair

Deirdre was awarded an OBE in the 2012 New Year Honours List for her services to career guidance. She is a Commissioner at the [UK Commission for Employment and Skills](#) (July 2011). She is also an Associate Fellow at the Institute for Employment Research (IER), Warwick University, an Associate at the Centre for Educational Sociology, Edinburgh University. Deirdre is a 'Lead Consultant' within the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network on quality assurance and evidence, and active member of the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDP). She is also Director of DMH Associates based in Derbyshire.

Linda JC Taylor OBE

Linda's career has been in the careers guidance sector, most recently as Chief Executive of Connexions South London. She is a Fellow of ICG a past member of the National Apprenticeship Group and Secretary General of the IAEVG. Linda was awarded the OBE in 2008 for public and voluntary services to young people.

David McNerney

David McNerney is Human Resources Director at Sellafield Ltd, which safely delivering decommissioning, reprocessing and nuclear waste management activities on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

David has spent the last 27 years working in human resources, Change and Business Services roles, both in the UK and abroad. He has worked in a variety of industries, including manufacturing, telecoms, and utility management.

Rajay Naik

Rajay Naik is Director of Government and External Affairs at The Open University. He is also Chairman of UK Programmes at the Big Lottery Fund, a Commissioner at the Department of Health and serving in his sixth year as a Governor at a major further education college. Rajay was formerly a member of the Browne Review into higher education funding, and is a former Chairman of the British Youth Council. He has served on the boards of the National Youth Agency, Learning and Skills Council and the Changemakers Foundation.

Ruth Spellman OBE

WEA's new Chief Executive Ruth Spellman has had a career marked by a commitment to lifelong learning. She was awarded an OBE in 2007 for services to workplace learning and an Honorary Doctorate from Cranfield in 2010. Ruth was formerly Chief Executive of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), and has been CEO of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Investors in People (IIP) UK. She has also been HR Director of the NSPCC.

Jenny Rudge OBE

Jenny Rudge is the Chief Executive of Careers South West Ltd and has 36 years experience of working in the careers sector. She has served on the National Taskforce for Modern Apprenticeships and as an advisor to the DFES for the Every Child Matters . Jenny was awarded an OBE for services to careers education and guidance in 2002.

Kieran Gordon

Kieran has 30 years experience of working in the careers guidance sector, including latterly as Chief Executive of Greater Merseyside Connexions (GMCP). Kieran was a member of the UK Taskforce on the Careers Profession and served on the National Careers Service Advisory Group, and served on the Presidential team of the Institute of Careers Guidance (ICG) for 3 years.

Steve Higginbotham

A career guidance professional - Chief Executive of igen (a of careers/IAG, training and employability services); Director and Immediate Past President of Institute of Career Guidance; Director of Careers England (and Chair of Adult Task Group); Director of Careers Yorkshire and the Humber (National Careers Service prime contractor); member of the Careers Profession Alliance (CPA) Executive Group.

Neil Carberry

Neil joined the CBI in 2004. He was appointed director of employment and skills in February 2011. Previously he was head of employment and pensions policy, and has also worked in the CBI's public services team as head of procurement.

Trudy Norris-Grey

Trudy has a breadth of business leadership experience in a range of high tech industries including Oracle, Sun Microsystems, BT and Microsoft. She currently holds and has had a variety of engagements including Chair of the CBI Committee on Innovation, Science and Technology, the Chair of UK's Women in Science, Engineering and Technology, lead editor for the Wilson Review on Business-University and member of the Oversight Committee for UK's Catapult Centres.

Simon Surtees MA DipCG - associate member

Simon qualified as a careers adviser in 1981 and has worked across London throughout his career. He brings to the council experience of careers guidance with individuals of all ages and extensive experience of managing and training careers advisers and personal advisers. He is also a governor of St Marks Academy in Mitcham. He is currently a project manager with CfBT Include working with training providers in west and south London.

Brian Lightman - associate member

Brian Lightman taught modern languages in SE England and had 2 headships in S Wales before becoming General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) in September 2010. He served on the Board of Careers Wales Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan from 2004-2012.

Nick Chambers - associate member

Nick Chambers is the director of the [Education and Employers Taskforce](#). The charity aims to make it easier for education and employers to work together to help young people. It undertakes research and runs [Speakers for Schools](#) and [Inspiring the Future](#).