



Salford CVS  
making a difference in Salford

## Salford VCSE Conference 2022 Disenfranchised!

### Speaker Biographies

#### Alison Page - Chief Executive, Salford CVS



Alison is proud to have been the Chief Executive of Salford CVS since April 2013 and is passionate about Salford and working in partnership with the city's voluntary organisations, community groups, charities, social enterprises and other strategic partners in order to benefit local people and place.

Alison is the Chair of the Salford Social Value Alliance and one of the organisers of Salford Social Enterprise City. She is also involved in all of the main cross-sectoral partnerships in Salford, sitting on the Locality Board, Health & Wellbeing Board, Skills & Work Board and more...

Alison is involved in work around tackling poverty, reducing inequalities, promoting equity and creating an inclusive economy in both the city of Salford and across Greater Manchester.

Alison is a founder Director of 10GM, a joint venture between some of Greater Manchester's locality infrastructure organisations; and a founder member of the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group, where she co-chairs the VCSE Commissioning group. She's currently heavily involved in the changes around health and social care in Greater Manchester, including helping develop an Alternative Provider Federation for the social sector.

Alison has also been the voluntary Chair of Voluntary Sector North West since September 2017.

Previous roles in a voluntary capacity have included acting as Chair of Lancaster Sustainability Forum; Chair of the Pankhurst Centre in Manchester; Vice Chair of George House Trust; and Vice Chair of ICOM (national umbrella body for worker cooperatives). Alison was also a governor of Lancaster and Morecambe FE College for over 10 years.

In terms of other paid work, most recently Alison was founder Chief Executive of a large social enterprise in Lancashire for 14 years, before moving on to Salford CVS.

When she's not working (which is rare!) she enjoys getting as near to the sea as possible, watching football, talking politics and practical volunteering such as gardening, growing, mentoring and campaigning!





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### Kathy Evans - Chief Executive, Children England



Kathy became CEO of [Children England](#) in April 2013, having been its Deputy CEO since May 2010. Founded in 1942 by a group of the major children's charities, Children England is the membership body for children's charities, voluntary and community sector organisations in England. In May 2014 Children England successfully campaigned [to ban profit-making](#) companies from running outsourced child protection services, and continues to lead collaborative voluntary sector campaigns for change, including the [Declaration of Interdependence](#), [Open to All](#) and [Grants for Good](#). More recently Children England created the [ChildFair State Inquiry](#), in which children and young people from all over England have researched and re-envisioned the welfare state for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Kathy is a regular columnist for children's and charity sector press, and one of the co-authors of ["Kittens Are Evil: Little Heresies in Public Policy"](#) in which she challenges the underlying economics of competitive markets for charitable and public services. Kathy was also named ["Children and Young People's Champion 2018"](#) in the CYPNow annual awards.

After growing up in Swansea and graduating from Trinity College Cambridge with a degree in Social and Political Sciences, Kathy took a full-time CSV volunteer placement in a voluntary sector children's home, an experience that inspired her to train in counselling, and to work with young people in LA secure accommodation for several years. She moved into policy work in 1996: firstly for DrugScope, specialising in drug treatment for young people; then in 2001 going to The Children's Society where she was Policy Director until 2009.

During her career Kathy has been the Chair of the Standing Committee for Youth Justice, a Trustee of the Children's Rights Alliance for England, a member of the ACMD Hidden Harm implementation group and DCSF Care Matters advisory group. She was also consultant to the Police Foundation and Justice, devising potential alternatives to Youth Courts, to support the Independent Commission on Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.



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### Prof Erinma Bell MBE DL - CEO of CARISMA Services



In 2003 Erinma co-founded the charity known as CARISMA - Community Alliance for Renewal Inner South Manchester Area. This is a front-line community based group set up to offer life-chances for people in the community by giving them positive alternatives other than violent street, gun and gang crimes [www.carisma.me.uk](http://www.carisma.me.uk).

Erinma continues to lead on work around issues such as Restorative Justice, Peace and Conflict Resolution as well as Peace Making, Peace Keeping and Peace Building within an urban environment. In 2007 CARISMA was awarded The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for voluntary service and then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, recognised Erinma's efforts in his book 'Britain's Everyday Heroes'. In 2008 Erinma was awarded an MBE, and in 2011 she was made Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

Her passion for community peace has seen her travel internationally to share her stories and experiences with others seeking peace in communities across the world. Erinma has produced a Peace Toolkit, which is available at [www.carisma.me.uk](http://www.carisma.me.uk).

Erinma is also a Justice of the Peace; President of Lloyd Davies Partnership; Chair of 'We Stand Together' charity; Trustee at EMERGE 3Rs; The Methodist Church Manchester Circuit; Director & Governor of Trinity CE High School; Governor at Holy Name Primary School; and Director of CDM UK; Out Of Africa Events; 9PointsTv.

Erinma is on the following committees: CrimeStoppers North West; Manchester Cathedral General Council; Manchester University General Assembly; and Chairs the GMP Force HQ Independent Advisory Group. Erinma is also an Ambassador of the Home Office Windrush Engagement Team.

There is a sculpture of Erinma, which is made from 50 recycled guns, as a tribute to her work in reducing gun and gang crime in Manchester. The sculpture was unveiled 2016 in Manchester Town Hall and is the first female statue to go on display in the Town Hall in 150 years!



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### Mo Isap, Chief Executive, IN4group / Salford HOST



Mo Isap is the founder and CEO of [IN4 Group](#), the premier operator of technology and innovation hubs in the UK regions, headquartered at MediaCity, Salford. He holds an MBA and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management and the Royal Society of Arts.

Mo is also the founder of [Skills City](#), one of the largest digital Skills Bootcamps operations in the country.

IN4 operate [HOST](#), the Home of Skills & Technology, one of the North West's most established innovation hubs in MediaCity.

His first business, MPG, became one of the largest independent digital print companies in the UK and was listed in the Financial Times 100 fastest growing UK companies.

He is a Board Director of the Career & Enterprise Company and founding director, trustee and vice chair of Star Academies, a leading Multi-Academy Trust. Previously, Mo was Co-chair of the Greater Manchester LEP (Local Enterprises Partnership).

### Anne-Marie Marshall - Services Manager, Salford CVS



Anne-Marie Marshall has been the Services Manager at Salford CVS for nearly six years managing both the Development Team and Volunteers Centre. She has worked in the VCSE sector for 24 years and has diverse experience in the VCSE sector, including community development, disability, sport and physical activity and community media.

As one of life's doer, she rolls up her sleeves and gets involved to help find practical solutions to the knottiest of problems. For her the best solutions come through true co-production, collaborating with people who have lived experience and working together for the greater good.

Throughout her working life, she has lived by her core values of helping people, fairness and equality. This has been a driving force for her to help create and deliver opportunities that enables people make a difference to their own lives and communities.

Outside of work, she's a keen crafter and cat wrangler.



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### Aderonke Apata - Founder and CEO, African Rainbow



Aderonke is a human rights activist and feminist who studied the Bar Professional Training Course and subsequently qualified as a Barrister. Aderonke has a Master of Laws, BSc in Microbiology, Master of Public Health, Postgraduate Degree in Law and Registered Manager Award. She is also an Internally Accredited Mediator.

Aderonke is an LGBTIQ asylum campaigner for LGBTIQ people seeking asylum to stay in the UK; whom herself got [granted asylum after 13-year battle](#).

Aderonke is the founder and CEO of [African Rainbow Family](#), an LGBTIQ grassroots charity that campaigns for the rights of LGBTIQ people of African heritage and wider BAME. She also founded Manchester Migrant Solidarity.

Aderonke started the shutdown Yarl's Wood campaign in 2012 from inside the detention centre where she organised and led a demonstration from inside Yarl's Wood demanding freedom for all.

Aderonke has won many awards for her campaigning work. She is [Winner Positive Role Model for LGBT National Diversity Award](#) 2014, where she was described as "an unstoppable force in fighting for justice", she is number 41 & 67 on the [RainbowList2014](#) & [RainbowList2015](#) as one of the 101 most influential LGBT people in the UK.

### Sarah Whitehead - Founder, Community Pride CIC / Salford Poverty Truth Commission



Growing up with a difficult childhood in Salford, Sarah is a single mum who has experienced inequality and social disadvantage first hand.

For many years she felt powerless to create change in her life and her community, feeling disconnected from politics and isolated in society.

Today through her community activism she is a founding co-director of community led social enterprise Community Pride CIC; set up in 2015 to support local people to explore, identify and address the socio-economic issues that are affecting them and their communities.

In 2018 she joined the Transatlantic Inclusive Leaders Network and in 2021 she won the National Insight Award for Listening to People.

Sarah has not only gone on to change her own life but through her work with Joseph Rowntree Foundation and The Poverty Truth Network she continues to create space and open up doors of opportunity for others to stand up, be heard and create meaningful change.





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### Simone Spray - CEO, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street



Simone Spray (she/her) has been the proud Chief Executive of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street for the last 8 years of her 30+ year career working with children, young people, families and communities.

She is driven by a passion for equality, social justice, youth empowerment and creativity and a qualified Psychologist and Youth Worker.

Simone cut her teeth in the Greater Manchester public sector and then went onto lead the UK Child Poverty Programme at Save the Children, scaling up evidence-based programmes within the political infrastructures of each nation.

42<sup>nd</sup> Street, has a 42 year history of pioneering support for 11-25 year olds with their emotional well-being and mental health, offering a choice of effective, young person-centred, rights-based therapeutic, group, creative and social action approaches.

Simone is Chair of the GM VCSE Mental Health Leadership Group and Co-Deputy Chair of Young Manchester where she advocates for transformational system leadership informed by the diverse lived experience, voice and influence of young people.

Married to Peter - a talented pyro technician - they have two children Amy, 29, an inspiration, musician, climber and neuro-psychologist and Flo, 14, a ray of sunshine, dancer, singer-songwriter and photographer; they all teach her something new every day.

