

About our Speakers & Performers

Christine Lenehan OBE



Christine is director at the Council for Disabled Children. She has worked with disabled children and their families for over thirty years and has a particular interest in family support services. Christine has worked as a social worker in residential and fieldwork settings and for voluntary and statutory agencies. Christine was a member of the expert working group on the National Service Framework for Children module on Disabled Children was responsible for the development of its consultation programme. Christine was on the advisory group for improving the life chances of disabled people, issued by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit in January 2005.

In 2009, Christine was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her work with disabled children and their families. As director of CDC and board member of the Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) campaign, Christine has been at the vanguard of her field - raising the policy profile of disabled children and young people.

Mike Stevenson



Since founding Edinburgh-based Design Links in 1994, Mike has helped countless companies and public service agencies clarify their vision and become more innovative in their communications. Mike believes passionately in the power of people to outperform their expectations.

Mike is a much in demand inspirational speaker. He is regarded internationally as a pioneer in regeneration branding and marketing, thanks to the success of his work in deprived areas of Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Burnley. He was chair of Leith FM, Edinburgh's newest radio venture, guiding the station to its five-year license from Ofcom. He founded Talking up for a Change – a new movement aimed at promoting positivity and ambition.

Mike's life experience is rich and varied. Before starting in marketing, he worked as a steelworker, wine bottler, hod-carrier, shortbread packer, hospital orderly, community worker, youth leader, musician and actor. It adds up to an approach that is refreshingly honest and an ability to connect with staff at all levels.

Moira Oliphant



Moira is the newly appointed Head of Policy for Carers Branch in the Community Care Division of the Scottish Government. Before joining Community Care, she worked for three years as Team Leader in Children, Young People and Social Care Directorate, Safer Children, Stronger Families Division with responsibility for the Disqualified from Working with Children List and implementation of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups legislation. And before that she was seconded to Barnardo's Scotland for three years taking forward its substance misuse policy and practice, working closely with projects and services.

Moira has worked within the Scottish Government/Scottish Executive/Scottish Office for a good number of years working for Conservative, Scottish Labour/Lib Dem and now the SNP administration!

Audability

Audability are: David Christopher, John McAdie, Larry Sanderson and Rick Bamford.

Audability are a four-piece group performing their own individual brand of strong, well-crafted songs. With the emphasis on original songwriting, they draw on rock, blues, folk and country, and even the occasional brush stroke of jazz.

Audability express their unique outlook as 'a completely original musical group with no peers'. They compete in the world of professional music and band members see themselves as musicians first and foremost. If positive messages emerge from the fact that disabilities have been overcome, they see that as an additional achievement to the substantial musical ones. Each member of the group brings to it a completely different world of experience and musical background. It is these attributes that help to create their highly acclaimed material and performances.

We are pleased to have been successful in a bid for Scottish Arts Council Funding towards the development of a piece of music theatre with writer John Harvey, with a working title of Love, Schizophrenia and Mungo Park!