

## Speaker Biographies

### Family Links 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference

#### *Building the Capabilities of Adults in Children's Lives*



**Wendy Rose** is an Honorary Research Fellow at Cardiff University. She has a background in social work practice and management in the NHS and local government, and was a senior civil servant in England for 11 years advising on children's policy and its implementation. She has had a long-standing commitment as a trustee of HSUK to supporting Home-Start's work with children and young families.



**Sarah Darton** is CEO at Family Links the Centre for Emotional Health. She worked in the NHS for 30 years as a health visitor, named nurse for child protection and manager of a Sure Start Children's Centre. Sarah first joined Family Links as Director of Programmes in 2009 and has been CEO since January 2018.



**Prof Eamon McCrory** is Professor of Developmental Neuroscience and Psychopathology at UCL. His research uses brain imaging and psychological approaches to investigate the impact of childhood maltreatment on emotional development and mental health. The aim of his work is to understand how and why mental health problems can unfold, and how we might intervene to promote more resilient outcomes for children.



**Sally Hogg** is currently Head of Policy and Communications at the Parent-Infant Foundation, where she leads work to raise awareness of the importance of the earliest years, and to drive change at a local and national level. Sally coordinates the All-Party Parliamentary Group for conception to age 2 and chairs the First 1001 Days Movement, a campaigning alliance of over 200 charities and professional bodies.



**Ed Vainker** is the co-founder of Reach Academy Feltham and the Reach Children's Hub, a cradle to career model of support built around an all-through school in London. He leads the Reach Foundation which works in partnership with schools around the country to support the development of further cradle to career models. He is on the Advisory Board of the Children's Commissioner, sat on the Royal Foundation Steering Group on Early Years and was awarded an OBE in 2019.



**Dr John Coleman** is a trained clinical psychologist. He has been a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Education at Oxford University, and is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Bedfordshire. He is the author of many books, including "Why won't my teenager talk to me?", and was awarded an OBE in 2001 for services to young people. He is a Trustee of Family Lives, and a consultant to a range of voluntary sector organisations.



**Dr Hilary Emery** is a school governor, an academy director and Family Links Chair of Trustees. She began as a primary teacher, then working in teacher education and policy implementation before becoming CEO of the National Children's Bureau. Her research interests have been in formative assessment. She is an Honorary Norham Fellow at Oxford University's department of education and was awarded the CBE in 2018.



**Liz Burton** is a recently retired headteacher. She has worked in the state sector for forty years, always in multi-cultural city schools, starting out as a class teacher in London and then in schools in Oxford. She supports other schools through working as a school improvement partner and has mentored and coached new headteachers.



**Bea Stevenson** is Head of Education at Family Links the Centre for Emotional Health. She is a qualified primary teacher and spent three years teaching in Peckham before joining Teach First to direct their work in East London. Bea is a steering group member for the Fair Education Alliance and the National Children's Bureau Schools Wellbeing Partnership, and feeds back important aspects of our schools partnership work into the national conversation.



**Jane Godby** has worked in education for 27 years, enjoying many different roles during this time. Her gateway into education was as a volunteer reader at her children's school. Jane was offered a job as a teaching assistant and spent 4 years studying for a teacher degree with Brookes University. She is currently the acting deputy head teacher at St. Mary and St. John school in Oxford, as well as being a Family Links-trained Parent Group Leader.



**Dr Alenka Miles** is a trained Anaesthetist and also trained as a volunteer PGL, delivering the "Parenting Puzzle" in her children's schools and local church. In 2019, she became the Wellbeing Lead for her department, and is currently working in staff engagement across their anaesthetic, critical care and surgical / theatres division including related ward / office areas. Alenka's Ultimate Goal is to help encourage workplace culture change locally by even one tiny step before she retires!



**Alexander Armstrong** is a long-standing Family Links Patron along with his wife Hannah. He attended Cambridge University where he joined the Footlights and went on to form a comedy double act with Ben Miller. In addition to The Armstrong & Miller Show, Alexander is a regular host on Have I Got News For You and also presents Pointless on BBC1.