

Skills – The Formula For Success 2019 Speaker Biographies



Kevin Green

Kevin Green is an HR and talent professional who helps organisations prepare for the future and improve performance by making the most of their people and by enhancing their culture. The former Chief Executive of the Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC), Kevin also served as HR Director at Royal Mail where he was a key part of a turnaround team.

Whilst at the REC Kevin moved the organisation towards viewing members more as customers and providing a service that reflected that as well as improved training and support. Under his leadership the REC became the leading voice of the British labour market.

Previously at Royal Mail, working alongside Allan Leighton and Adam Crozier, Kevin was responsible for all people-related issues for a business with over 160,000 employees. He and the leadership team dramatically turned around the postal service at a time of new and increased competition. In an environment where post was increasingly second to electronic communications and many global courier companies were taking Royal Mail's business, they turned losses of over £1.5million a day into an annual profit of over £450million.

Having worked with recruitment and HR professionals and companies from Lloyds Banking Group to Unilever to BAE Systems, Kevin delivers real-world, practical advice on culture, policy and strategy. He examines how every organisation and department can make the most of their HR functions as well as how to attract, retain and develop talent in the digital age.

As well as the everyday business challenges Kevin looks at the near future of people and talent. He offers an insight into the new HR tech companies and those experiencing rapid growth with which he's working. He reflects on the possible effects of artificial intelligence on the workplace and what it means for business beyond doom-laden predictions of joblessness and economic turmoil. He also explains the millennial view on, and expectations of the working world; whilst not always so different, employers need to be aware of their desire for more flexibility, development and variety. As well as his work in business, Kevin has been a regular commentator on labour and employment on BBC TV and radio.



Nav Chohan

Nav Chohan is the Chair of the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges and the Leeds City Region Skills Network. Nav joined Shipley College as Principal in July 2009. He has worked in education for 25 years.

Before coming to the college in Saltaire, he worked at Leeds College of Technology. Previously, he worked as an Information Systems Project Manager for NHS in Scotland and before that as an independent IT Consultant. Nav grew up in London and has lived in Yorkshire for the last 20 years.



Roger Marsh OBE

Roger Marsh OBE became Chair of Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in July 2013. Prior to this role, Roger was a Senior Partner for 23 years and led PwC's Government and Public Sector practice across the North. An astute, questioning, lateral thinking but practical businessman with strong execution skills, Roger has operated in and managed businesses across the industrial spectrum.

Roger has managed change at the highest level of Government, major businesses and companies implementing sensitive projects in times of transition and for long term financial health. Roger has built, led and been a member of cohesive teams delivering impressive results. Alongside his position as Chair of the LEP Board, he is also a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the HS2 Growth Taskforce led by Lord Deighton and the Council and Audit & Risk Committee at the University of Leeds.



Rashik Parmar MBE

Rashik Parmar MBE is the leader of IBM's European technical community, an IBM Distinguished Engineer and previously President of IBM's Academy of Technology.

He currently advising clients on their cloud innovation roadmap from a technology and business perspective drawing on thirty-three years of practical experience in IBM. He has worked for financial, retail and manufacturing clients on IT transformation projects of all sizes.

Rashik was appointed to the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board and chairs the employment and skills panel. He was awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) as part of HRH Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday honours for his contribution to business and innovation.



Cllr Susan Hinchliffe

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leader of Bradford Council

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe is Leader of Bradford Council and in August 2017 was elected as Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, becoming the first female led Combined Authority in the country. During her time at the Combined Authority, Susan has always been a lead on Skills, and now as Chair retains this passion and responsibility.

Susan is driven to achieve great things for the region, focusing on the central priorities of boosting productivity, enabling inclusive growth, delivering 21st century transport and supporting clean growth. Susan, alongside fellow West Yorkshire Leaders, focus on these priorities to progress the region's ambitions and contribute to the Combined Authority's vision of making the region known globally as a place where everyone can build great businesses, careers and lives.

Outside politics Susan has had her own business, worked in a Marketing agency and spent five years in a management role at a national newspaper. Until being elected as Council Leader she had been working for Business in the Community, a national charity which promotes responsible business practice. There she managed the Healthy High Streets regeneration programme, a national programme operating in 67 towns across the UK.

As Chair of the Combined Authority Susan is dedicated to the task of driving the region forward as an outward-looking, confident and thriving economy with an enterprising young population, a proud past and an exciting future.



Joanne Patrickson

Joanne Patrickson leads the West Yorkshire Consortium of College's project bidding and delivery processes.

Working closely with the LEP to pursue funding streams that can help to deliver projects to close the skills gaps for employers across the Leeds City Region. Joanne leads the core project team to ensure contracts are developed, implemented and executed successfully.

Joanne has worked in the public sector for over 25 years with experience in Project Management of large-scale complex EU and non-EU contracts from bid inception, performance management of supply chains to project completion. She has spent 16 years specifically within Further Education, maximising external funding opportunities with overall management responsibility for several regional and national Prime Contractor based ESF programmes.



Louise Tearle

Louise Tearle has worked for the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges since 2002 and leads on strategic partnerships. Working in collaboration with colleges, stakeholders and strategic partners, Louise ensures that the consortium delivers skills training to employers in the Leeds City Region in line with our LEP priorities.

Louise leads on the Joint Venture Partnership with colleges, as well as the Leeds City Region Skills Network, which connects colleges, universities, private providers and the voluntary sector.

Louise has worked in Further Education for over 25 years. A graduate of University College London and member of the British Psychological Society, Louise has taught in both FE colleges and universities.