



# Board Members' Biographies

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## **Simon Rennie**

### **CAS Chair**

Prior to retiring in 2019, Simon spent the previous thirty years working in the charity sector in Scotland tackling social inclusion and environmental justice issues. In the 1990s he spent ten years with the Wise Group in Glasgow helping disadvantaged and excluded individuals improve their lives and life chances. Simon has worked closely with Local Authorities, the Scottish Government and some of its agencies and is steeped in charity governance.

Whilst Simon's working life had an environmental focus he previously sat on the boards of Stepfamily Scotland and Children 1st.

Simon has been a CAS Trustee for 3 years. During his time on the CAS Board, Simon has been Chair of the Membership Standards Committee and served on the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee. His time on the Board and working with Committees has given Simon a deep insight into the key issues facing CAS and the network.



## **Anna Evans**

### **External Trustee**

Anna Evans is a consultant in the Scottish housing sector providing advisory services in strategic planning, service and organisational review, restructure and change. Her work includes governance reviews and investigations. Anna combines a portfolio of project consultancy, interim executive management and research to achieve transformational change – mainly in housing organisations, and also across the wider public and charitable sectors. Her professional experience has been gained over 30 years in local government, central government agencies, housing associations and the wider voluntary sector as an employee, consultant and Board Member. Anna is a Chartered Housing Professional, MBA and ILM professional coach.



## **Vicky Di Ciacca**

### **External Trustee**

Vicky is the Managing Director of her company Be Positive Ltd, which provides specialist support to organisations as they navigate complex change. She has over 25 years of boardroom experience across the private and 3rd sectors.

Vicky has had the privilege of serving as a trustee on the boards of two Scottish charities. Firstly, at Edinburgh Women's Aid, for 5 years where she held the position of Vice Chair. Edinburgh Women's Aid is affiliated with Scottish Women's Aid, the umbrella organisation supporting Women's Aid organisations across Scotland. Most recently Vicky completed a 6-year term at WorkingRite, latterly as Chair, providing leadership through the Covid crisis. WorkingRite is a Scottish youth employability charity.

Through her professional and trustee career, Vicky has developed skills in governance, corporate strategy, business planning and leadership. She is passionate about using her experience to support vulnerable people and to give everyone a chance in a fairer society.

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## **David Dunn**

### **External Trustee**

David is currently the CEO of SSC, an organisation focused on supporting the adoption of technology across a broad range of sectors. He is a member of the UK Government's Digital Economy Council and holds other directorships including tech membership organisation Dynamo North East and deep-sea science company Armatus Oceanic.

Based on his doctorate, David has given talks on economic development through supporting tech sector growth in a number of countries including China, South Korea, the USA and in Europe. David also holds an MBA from Durham University and BSc from Abertay University. David joined the Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux Board in March 2019 and is the Chair of the Digital Committee.



## **Martin Fotheringham**

### **Bureau Trustee (CEO, Renfrewshire CAB)**

Martin's diverse background in senior roles in operational policing and across the third sector equips him with the experience to support Citizens Advice Scotland in developing collaborative work with CABx in delivering our shared mission.

Previously serving as a Trustee of a local charity supporting veterans with PTSD and with the Police Treatment Centre, a multi-million-pound charity supporting officers across the UK, he understands the expectations on Trustees. As Renfrewshire's CEO he also understands that CAB leadership whilst rewarding, carries great responsibility and risk.

Experienced in strategic & risk management, community partnership, programme delivery and strategic and government level engagement he will challenge and support the work of CAS in delivering further successes for CABx enhancing support to our leaders and services to our communities.

Martin is passionate about the work of CABx helping ordinary people in accessing their rights and entitlements, enabling them to participate fully in Scottish society.



## **Sandra Heidinger**

### **External Trustee**

Sandra has thirty five years' experience in human resources and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. She has held senior leadership roles in human resources including 15 years as Director of Human Resources and Chief People Officer at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. She is now semi-retired and is part-time Special Advisor to the Principal at University of Strathclyde, providing strategic advice and input on a range of people issues.

Whilst at Strathclyde, Sandra has overseen a range of strategic reshaping initiatives, has led on the development of a Values based culture and has introduced a new leadership support strategy to enable agile and effective leadership at all levels. She has developed new career paths for staff which have won UK awards and has led on the delivery of Strathclyde's People Strategy which includes a range of socially progressive employment practices such as the ending of zero hours contracts, voluntary living wage accreditation, support for staff

who are carers and a sector leading equality, diversity and inclusion agenda. The impact of Strathclyde's People Strategy was recognised in 2017 when Strathclyde won the inaugural Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award for 'UK Higher Education's Workplace of the Year'.

Sandra was Chair of Universities Human Resources UK (the professional body for all HR practitioners within the university sector) between 2016 and 2018. She is currently a Board Member and Vice Chair at Glasgow Clyde College and chairs their Staff Committee and Remuneration Committee and has previously served as a non-executive Trustee on the Scottish board of an international charity.

As a Citizens Advice Scotland Board member, Sandra has been privileged to contribute to Board discussion and decision making and, as Chair of the People Committee, has supported the development of a range of new people practices, including a soon to be launched People Strategy for CAS.



## **Beth Knight-Yamamoto**

### **External Trustee**

Beth Knight-Yamamoto is an advocacy and campaigns specialist with over 15 years' experience in political, charity and third sector organisations. Currently working in public affairs and engagement within the health sector, Beth has dedicated her career to empowering individuals to advocate for themselves and each other, including at Citizens Advice in England, and in a number of roles in UK and US politics. Beth also brings governance expertise as a current trustee of JRSST-CT, the charitable trust of the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, working to widen understanding of human rights and participation in democratic processes. Beth recently returned to Scotland with her partner and cat, Gin.



## **Gil Long**

### **Bureau Trustee (Chair of Parkhead CAB)**

Gil Long is Chair of Parkhead CAB and has served on their Board of Trustees for some years. She was formerly employed as a training adviser by Citizens Advice Scotland and has an excellent understanding of and strong commitment to the work of Citizens Advice Bureaux, their need for support and for the services offered by Citizens Advice Scotland.

Gil was co-opted onto CAS's Board in 2018 and took on the role of chair of Policy Forum in 2019. In this role she has worked with the Impact Team to support and enhance the contribution of CABs in social policy and campaigning work, through the reference groups, workshops and the annual work plan development. Gil also has experience of being a member of the Development Committee and Membership Standards Committee.

Gil has a keen interest in social policy, a Masters degree in applied research and extensive experience in civil society, academia, overseas development, human rights and anti-poverty work. Her career has included establishing the Scottish Poverty Information Unit based in Glasgow Caledonian University and managed legal advice and access to justice projects in Ethiopia and Malawi that were loosely based on the CAB model.



## **Valerie Maehle**

### **Bureau Trustee (Chair of Aberdeen CAB)**

Valerie was elected to the CAS Board in 2020 and has served as Chair of the Risk, Audit and Finance Committee whilst also contributing to the Membership Standard Committee and Digital Committee.

Valerie has been a Board member of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council, NHS Education for Scotland and Grampian Health Board and joined the Board of the Aberdeen Citizens Advice Bureau in 2017.

As a Chartered Physiotherapist Valerie held several clinical and management posts in Aberdeen and Canada before moving into education and becoming the Head of School of Health Sciences and then Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Care at RGU. Valerie also gained extensive experience in quality assurance, governance and professional regulation working with the Health Professionals Council.



## **Steve Rowan**

### **Bureau Trustee (Chair of Inverness, Badenoch & Strathspey CAB)**

Steve has been a CAS Trustee for 3 years, and served on Development, Policy Forum, People, Digital, and Risk Audit and Finance (RAF) Committees. He Chairs Inverness, Badenoch & Strathspey CAB, and the Highland Partnership (CAB contract with Highland Council). Outside CAB, he is Secretary of a Company/Charity promoting community growing in Inverness and served as Trustee of a SCIO for a Community Woodland for 10 years. Steve is on an advisory group for OSCR. An active Rotarian, he was Club President twice and is Public Image Team Lead for Rotary in North Scotland. Steve's career includes Local Authority Psychiatric Social Work and Welfare Rights, then 25 years as an IT Consultant. If re-elected, Steve hopes to offer his experience, commitment to CAB values, and interest in ensuring Rural & Island Communities are included in National Strategies. He is actively involved in Human Rights and Digital Divide Issues.



## **Lewis Woollett**

### **External Trustee**

Lewis is a highly experienced professional specialising in finance, IT and strategy who has worked in organisations of all sizes across a number of sectors. His career started in the automotive industry with the Land Rover Group and he has held a range of senior management and board level positions over 20 years.

Lewis graduated from the University of Westminster in 1983 gaining a BA(Hons) in Business Studies and completed an MBA with the Open University in 1991. He is a Fellow of Chartered Management Institute, a Chartered IT Professional and Member of the British Computer Society.

Lewis served as a Board Member of ScotlandIS, the Scottish IT industry forum and Chair of its Grampian Committee and believes that he can contribute to SACAB in the specific areas of finance and IT and also, more generally, by applying his extensive experience and collaborative philosophy to any issues and challenges that need to be addressed.

[www.cas.org.uk](http://www.cas.org.uk)





## **Jane Adams**

### **Perth CAB**

Jane first joined the CAB network 17 years ago to make a difference to vulnerable individuals and families and, over the years, she has been fortunate to develop her career within the network and experience, first-hand, the ups and downs of a bureaux manager.

Jane started as a volunteer generalist adviser at Aberdeen CAB, quickly gaining an understanding of how important a bureau is to its local community. She is now Chief Executive of Perth CAB, starting during the pandemic in June 2020, having also been Chief Officer at KAMCAB (2015-2021) and a Volunteer Support and Development Worker at Aberdeen CAB (2008-2012). In addition to her role at KAMCAB, Jane spent four years as Chair of COCABs (2017-2021) during which she grew her understanding of the differing needs of bureaux across the network and advocating on their behalf to CAS.

Not all Jane's working life has been spent in bureaux, she also spent time working in a cancer support charity (2012-2015) developing community-based services and training in the North East and Northern Isles, again developing knowledge of the barriers faced by those living in more remote areas of Scotland. During this time, she studied part time for a Masters degree in Human Resource Management, recognising the importance of developing staff and volunteers to be the best they can be. Jane believes that all this experience has given her an excellent grasp of each CAB's uniqueness as well as an educated insight into their similarities. With CAB services more in demand and people and funders under more pressure, Jane believes that she is well placed to represent and champion on behalf of all bureaux in the network.



## **Alana Forsyth**

### **Glasgow North West CAB**

Alana is the CEO of Glasgow North West CAB, proudly serving a diverse, vibrant community with multiple social and economic challenges. She has had the privilege of working within the CAB network for 13 years with previous roles in both Motherwell & Wishaw and Airdrie CABs during which time Alana grew her understanding of differing needs of each bureau and the many challenges and opportunities presented to the service.

Alana is currently Vice Chair of the Development Committee, Chair of the Small Grants Committee, member of the Sub – Allocations Committee and Monitoring Officer for national projects - PensionWise, EUSS and Kinship Care. She has been an active participant in a number of network wide co-design and steering groups helping to shape the future service delivery model and ensuring the network is identified as a strategic delivery partner at local and national level.

Prior to joining the CAB network, Alana worked in financial services for 13 years in a range of financial advice and senior operational roles, gaining valuable experience in operational, strategic and risk management as well as effective leadership with a key focus on a people led culture of learning and development.

Alana has an acute understanding of the pressure's bureaux are facing across the network, not least the difficulties in securing and retaining funding in a very competitive market, against a backdrop of significant increase in demand for our crucial services. She supports and appreciates the importance of maintaining the uniqueness of each of our bureaux in size, geography, resources and aspirations.