

Speakers' Profiles:

Richard Barnes, The Deputy Mayor of London



Richard was leader of the Conservative Group of the London Assembly in the last administration and previously leader of the Conservative administration in London Borough of Hillingdon. He has a particular interest in health and equality issues. He has a degree in economics from University of Wales, and speaks Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and French and is learning British Sign Language.

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK



Sabina is Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK is the first ever charity and small national organisation run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents, representing the needs of Deaf parents in the UK.

She is also well-known for her book *'Pregnancy and Birth: A Guide for Deaf Women'* was published in May 2004. This book is the first ever of its kind for Deaf parents in UK and possibly in the world.

Being an Asian Deaf mum of two children and currently works as Sensory Team Manager for one of the London boroughs. She also has over 10years experiences of working with local authorities as project researcher in 1996 looking at Asian Deaf people and their families with regard to their access to council services. Sabina presented papers on her research findings at various local, national & international conferences. When the project ended, she continued working as a Social Worker and obtained her DipSW qualification in the year 2000 and NVQ4 in Management in 2004.

She completed her third year BA (Hons) degree in International Social Work in 2001. This included doing a three months international research project 'Deaf Parenting: Raising a Child - An initial study on Deaf parents with children aged 0-11yrs' in USA, as part of her dissertation. It was the first ever focus on Deaf Parents on local, national and international levels as previous research mostly focuses on deaf children and their hearing families. From there, Deaf Parenting UK was born. She was known for her previous work on various projects as a freelance trainer/consultant, advising on Ethnic Deaf issues, and freelance reporter/TV presenter for Deaf programmes.

In recognition of her personal and professional life, she also won the Women of the Future Voluntary Award 2008, a prestige award for women breaking the high glass ceiling, the Beacon Prize 2008 (High Commended) She has been named as one of the 20 on the first ever Muslim Women Power List 2009, Equality and Human Right Commission.

Mark Harper MP, Shadow Minister for Disabled People



I was elected as Member of Parliament for the Forest of Dean on 5th May 2005 with a majority of 2,049. I had previously contested the seat in the 2001 election and had succeeded in cutting the Labour majority from 6,343 to 2,049.

I was born in 1970 and grew up in Swindon, where I attended Headlands School and Swindon College. I went on to Brasenose College, Oxford and graduated in 1991 with Upper Second-Class Honours in PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics). In 1995 I qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG and, until 2002, worked for Intel Corporation in a variety of roles including finance, business operations and marketing before establishing my own chartered accountancy practice in the Forest of Dean. I also served as a Governor at Newent Community School from November 2000 to July 2005. I always had a long-standing fascination with politics dating back to my student days and held ambitions of one day becoming an MP and serving the public.

In December 2005 I was appointed Shadow Minister for Defence and was given special responsibility for the Forces' Families Manifesto. In July 2007, following David Cameron's reshuffle of his frontbench team, I was appointed Shadow Minister for Disabled People as part of the Shadow Work and Pensions team

Clarissa Williams, President of National Association of Head teachers



Trained in Scotland as a primary school teacher, Clarissa began teaching in Croydon. She transferred into special needs in a secondary school in 1969, and three years later became an advisory teacher and then Head of the Croydon Language Development Centre. After completing a Masters degree at Sussex University, in 1979 she took up the post as Deputy Head of a 13-18 mixed comprehensive in Merton. In 1985 she was appointed Head of Tolworth Girls' School in Kingston upon Thames, a post that she has held for almost 23 years. Clarissa has worked in the London area for 40 years developing a wide range of educational interests, including working for London Challenge and, more recently, the Women into School Headship programme.

Currently on secondment as President of the National Association of Head teachers, she has made frequent media appearances, commenting on aspects of government policy, and has contributed to several educational press articles.

Julia Gault, Head of the Families Engagement Division, Department for Children, Schools and Families



As Head of the Families Engagement Division, Julia Gault is responsible for strategic oversight and delivery of policies to enable parents to support their children's learning and development. This includes leading on delivery of many of the parent and family aspects of the Children's Plan and implementation of Parent Know How - the new information service for parents being delivered in partnership with the third and private sectors.

In over 20 years in the Civil Service in three departments – Department for Work and Pensions, Cabinet Office and the new Department for Children, Schools and Families – she has held a wide range of posts from front-line service delivery to strategic policy development; many linked around the common theme of enabling individuals to make the transition out of poverty.

Emma Knights – Joint Chief Executive, Daycare Trust



Emma Knights took up the post of joint Chief Executive with job-share Alison Garnham in June 2006. Emma has had a variety of roles in the voluntary sector, particularly the advice sector, and last worked with Alison at Child Poverty Action Group in the 1990's.

Her two most recent posts were at the Legal Services Commission and the Local Government Association, leading projects on child poverty and educational attainment. She was the founding chair of the after-school club at her children's previous school in Norwich before she moved to Leamington Spa where she is now Governor at her son's secondary school.

Kathy Robinson, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador



Kathy Robinson is a successful writer, producer and consultant, raising the profile of British Sign Language through her award-winning educational and training materials for children and adults. She is the originator of the "Signs for Success" programme which uses sign language to develop young children's language and literacy skills. She is the parent of two deaf daughters, now adults, about whom she wrote a book "Children of Silence".

Graham P Taylor, Children of Deaf Adult, Author & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador



GP Taylor is the child of deaf parents. He has been a police officer - priest and is now a New York Times best selling author. His books are translated into 48 languages worldwide and are about to be made into motion pictures. His book *Shadowmancer* was said to be 'Hotter than Potter' and GP Taylor is regarded as being the 'new' CS Lewis.

Carolyn Denmark, Deaf Parent Perspective



Born in London, from a large Deaf family, where the condition goes back five generations. I attended Deaf boarding school throughout, and British Sign Language is my first language, with English as a second. I had two grown up hearing daughters, who ultimately broke with the family tradition of Deaf offsprings. As a native BSL user, I have strong link with Deaf community. I have a vast range of experience working in the Deaf community over the years.

At present, I work as Deaf Equality Officer with Bristol City Council focusing on BSL Charter. In the previous year I went on a secondment with Avon Fire & Rescue Service, setting up services for Deaf People in Avon.

I was previously employed with Bristol University as BSL teacher involving training hearing people to become interpreter, I also used to work at Elmfield Deaf School in Bristol with Deaf children as well as at Oak Lodge School in London with teenagers as a mentor. I also worked as a Social Work Assistant at Gloucester Deaf Association with Social Services for the Deaf. I work with range of Deaf people, from toddlers to old people.

In the media world, I have been involved as a presenter/translator and reporter in Deaf programmes on BBC's *See Hear!* and Ch4's *Sign On*. I joined HTV, the Independent TV company in West of England in March 1998 until 2009 as a presenter/translator for the local news summaries for the Deaf/BSL users. I have been involved in presenting several videos produced by the Government's Central Office of Information (COI). I had been doing the translation for Deaf viewers watching Her Majesty's Annual Christmas message for three years. I am also a qualified Sign Language Teacher and Assessor, and completed the British Sign Language Tutor Course with Durham University in 1990. In 1997 I studied Deaf Studies at Bristol University and has been awarded a Certificate in Social Sciences. I also gained OCN with Parentline Plus and am one of trainer with Deaf Parenting UK and deliver training for Deaf parents.

Professor Gary Morgan, Deputy Director of DCAL (University College London)



In the past 10 years I have established that sign languages are acquired in comparable ways to spoken languages at the level of phonological, morpho-syntactic and pragmatic organisation. I have also been working on the phonotactic regularities of signed languages and how this aids comprehension. This work is at the level of adult signers segmenting real signs from non-sign sequences. The next step will be to look at how these abilities develop in young children.

Since the establishment of the DCAL centre my language acquisition work has extended out to the development of social-cognitive skills in particular Theory of Mind (ToM). I am interested in how ToM develops out of early communication and how formal language skills support ToM reasoning. I started on this topic when I was involved in the Nicaraguan Sign Language project.

My most recent work looks at a population of signing children who have specific language impairments. Despite normal intelligence, social and linguistic stimulation they are not picking up the rules of sign language. This work will lead to a greater understanding of what the core SLI deficit might be (if there is a

single one). In all my work I attempt to draw parallels between spoken and signed language acquisition using universal theoretical explanations for particular developmental errors and patterns. At the same time signed languages are perceived and produced in a different modality to the norm. Modality has some impact on how children develop sign languages and how adults interact with signing children. In other work I am following the linguistic savant Christopher's development of sign language.

Zem Rodaway, Solicitor, Equality and Human Rights Commission



Zem Rodaway is a Senior Lawyer at the Equality and Human Rights Commission, having joined the Disability Rights Commission in June 2006. Prior to this, she worked at Humberside Law Centre for over 10 years, where she specialised in assisting disabled and Deaf people to take up their rights using the Disability Discrimination Act. This included assisting Deaf people to take discrimination claims in employment and access to services. As a disabled person herself, Zem is passionate about educating disabled and Deaf people about their rights and helping them to make these rights a reality.

Cedric Moon, Deaf Parent Perspective

Cedric Moon is married to sign language teacher Sheila and has 3 children, one of whom is now at High School. He is a civil servant in the Welsh Assembly Government. He is also secretary of the Wales Deaf Broadcasting Council, former secretary of the Wales Council for the Deaf and Cardiff and District Deaf Support Group. Both Sheila and Cedric are active campaigners for Deaf rights in Wales and have links with the Deaf Association of Wales and RNID Wales. They have experienced great difficulty in getting their local authority to set up a system that meets the communication needs of deaf parents, and this is an ongoing situation.

Louis Neethling, Executive Producer and Director, Mutt & Jeff Pictures



Executive Producer/Director Louis started his TV career as an Artes Award nominated presenter on the SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation). Louis then realised he was far more interested in learning about what went on behind the camera, so he changed his career to one of runner and researcher at the SABC whilst studying single and multi-camera directing. Louis then progressed onto the role of assistant director/presenter and then eventually director/executive producer of the independent production house, The New Production Company, Johannesburg, South Africa.

After working on drama and children's drama on TV, Louis wanted to learn more about film. Fortunate enough to have secured a grant from The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture to make a film and to win a Rotary International Scholarship, Louis travelled to the UK to study at the NFTS mentored by Lesley Manning, Brian Tufano BSC, Pia di Caula and Alex Mills BSC. It was a wonderful and happy experience and resulted in his short film, Dis?ABLE, being shown at various film festivals around the world. Louis moved to the UK in autumn 2001 and started work at the BBC as a director/assistant producer. Firstly, on See Hear and Switch, then Crimewatch, Holiday 2006 and Open i for Red Bee Media. Louis left the BBC at the end of 2006, to become freelance and set up his own company.

Ceri Hughes - Director, KPMG LLP



Ceri is a Director of Knowledge Management, IT and Research in KPMG's Advisory practice. She has worked at KPMG since 2000 and prior to that was Global Information and Records Manager at Cable and Wireless plc. She holds a Masters degree in History and one in Information Management and is completing an MBA. Ceri's first contact with Deaf Parenting UK was made at EBIC 2008 when the charity won the Social Impact Awards, and has since been so impressed by the passion and commitment of those involved that she is keen to support and get involved!