

**Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership**  
***Evidence-Informed Practice: Drugs and Alcohol***  
Stakeholder Day – Wednesday 21st June 2017

**Speaker Biographies**

**James Dunbar**

James Dunbar is the founding Chief Executive of New Start Highland. He has led its growth from a single employee in 2000 to an organisation with 70 employees and a multi-million pound turnover. James is also a Director of Social Enterprise Scotland, and the Third Sector Interface. He participates in Scottish Government's Scotland Can Do Forum and sits on the Highlands & Islands Territorial Committee. He has twice been a winner of the Institute of Directors "Director of the year" award and has received the EY Entrepreneur of the Year award. He also led New Start Highland to win the SCDI Business Excellence award for environmental sustainability and Highland Business Awards Best Social Enterprise. James was awarded an OBE for services to the development of the economy and the community in the Highlands and Islands in the 2016 New Year's Honours.

**Dr Tessa Parkes**

Dr Tessa Parkes is Research Director of the newly formed Salvation Army Centre for Addictions Services and Research at the University of Stirling. She is also a member of the Partnership for Action on Drugs in Scotland (PADS) Ministerial Group (which oversees policy and practice on harm reduction, the quality of drug services, and stigma) and represents researchers in Scotland on the SIGN Committee on Early Diagnosis and Support of Children with FAS and FASD. As institutional Dean for Equality and Diversity, Tessa works across the University to ensure active engagement with the equality, diversity and inclusion agenda for learning, teaching and research. She has recently been appointed to HEFCE's Research Excellence Framework (REF) Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel.

**Fran Warren**

Fran Warren has been working as a social researcher in the Scottish Government for eight years, and in the drugs research team for almost half of that time. She is based in the Population Health team and works with colleagues to develop and promote the drugs evidence base. Alongside her recent work on education and prevention, Fran has been involved with feeding evidence into the Scottish Drugs Forum led working group on older problem drug users, setting up a Scottish Drugs Research Network, as well as involvement in projects on Naloxone, stigma towards drug users, the Scottish Crime and Justice survey and the SALSUS survey etc. Prior to starting this

post, Fran was a self-employed social researcher and full time mum. Before that, she spent four years as a Research Associate at Heriot-Watt University in the School of Built Environment, and before that worked at Ipsos MORI. She has a degree in Political Science from Strathclyde University and a Masters in Social Research from Edinburgh University.

### **Elaine Mead**

Elaine Mead is Chief Executive of NHS Highland. She took up post in January 2011 after having spent six years as NHS Highland's Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Chief Executive. She is also a fellow of the International Society for Quality in Health Care and an Accredited Lean Leader. Elaine joined NHS Highland in February 2005 from West Dorset General Hospitals, where she was Director of Operations and Deputy Chief Executive. Elaine has 30 years of experience across a wide range of health and social care settings including in private healthcare. She originally trained as a Diagnostic Radiographer. In 2016 Elaine took up the position of visiting Professor at the University of the Highlands and Islands.