



Lorraine O'Reilly

Lorraine is a successful, self-motivated senior executive with over thirty years experience of leading and managing at the highest levels, having been Director of a National Programme, Executive Director, Director of Children's Services and a Director of Education.

In her current role as Director of Education for Kent, Lorraine is leading the challenge to improve the Country's largest education authority's schools against the backdrop of increasing national expectations and significantly diminishing budgets.

As National Director of The Commissioning Support Programme, Lorraine spearheaded the £20m drive to transform commissioning in all Children's Services. She leads the multi-layered, sector led programme heading up client relationships, the locality based bespoke work and the programme's extensive training offer. She ensures the successful delivery of the programme and its sustainability against a demanding timescale, tight budgetary constraints and within a rapidly changing political environment.

In her Executive Director role in Harrow, Lorraine led 5 Directorates: Children's Services, Adults Services, Community and Area Development, Culture Heritage Sport and Libraries, Policy Strategy and Finance. With responsibility for 4500 staff a budget of £205m Lorraine led over 70% of the Council's services.

In her role as Director of Children's Services at Brighton and Hove City Council she led the City's Children and Young People's Trust through a very difficult period, during which she delivered a number of controversial and complex issues. She led the contentious Admissions (lottery) System, ensuring procedural and political control. She set the first balanced budget of £160m including health budgets of £8.5m, driving out savings of £2.3m in year.

In all her roles Lorraine has set an impressive record of turning around underperforming organisations and achieving tough targets. Leading by example and through teamwork, she engages and inspires staff at all levels, engendering a sense of pride and achievement. She is a natural leader who can tackle complicated situations and does not shy away from making difficult decisions. She has the clarity of vision to sum up complex situations quickly and plan effective organisational and financial improvement strategies that are innovative and thorough. She is equally at home as a team member and her winning style enables her to develop managers and Directors to their full potential.

Lorraine is a creative, imaginative, problem-solver who is able to steer a clear leadership path through the most demanding organisations and programmes. She is adept at resolving conflicts through diplomatic negotiations and personal resolve. She is particularly skilled at bringing about lasting partnerships, working with the business and voluntary sectors, MPs, elected members and with the most senior levels within the DfE, NHS and Police service. Lorraine has comprehensive experience at board level and is an outstanding chair person; she is able to build warm and respected relationships with community groups and their representatives.

Lorraine has never lost sight of why she is in public service - to give the least advantaged the best opportunities. To this end Lorraine Chairs the Interim Executive Board of a large underperforming secondary school in London. Through her drive and energy the school has been removed from 'special measures', its exam results have risen to above national levels, a new Head and Governing Body have been appointed and a Trust has been established, all in just over a year.

Lorraine's commitment to the voluntary sector is unquestionable; she co founded The Scollar Charitable Trust and drove its successful development as Chair for four years raising over £4m and putting it in the Charities Commission's highest income bracket.

Lorraine is also an active Trustee of the Russell Commission's Implementation Board – The V organisation.

She prides herself on her infectious sense of humour, her down-to-earth approach and ability to engage meaningfully with people at all levels.

Areas of Expertise

- Inspirational leadership and decisive action
- Turning around underperforming organisations
- Organisational, performance and budget improvement
- Conflict resolution and negotiation
- Social Capital development and community engagement