

City Year UK Council of Education Advisors

Name	Job title	Biography
Natalie Parish	Founder, ISOS	Natalie Parish set up Isos Partnership with 4 colleagues in 2008. Since then she has worked extensively both in the UK and abroad, on developing strategies for education, literacy, leadership and development education for national and local governments, and has led the production of a number of high profile research and analytical publications across education and children's services policy areas. Her recent work includes a research report, commissioned by the Department for Education, analysing how local authorities have responded to the changing education landscape. In addition to her national level research she has worked directly with local authorities, supporting them to reconfigure their education and strategy functions in light of reduced funding and new priorities and engaged schools in action research and policy evaluations. Formerly, Natalie was assistant director for strategy and performance in Children's Services in Tower Hamlets. She began her career in the Department for Education where she led policy development on school improvement and school target setting and worked on implementation of the National Strategies.
Clare Collins	Former chair, National Governors Association	A school and academy governor with over 20 years experience in primary and secondary schools. Previously a trustee and chair of the National Governors' Association, now leading the organisation's consultancy service which carries out external reviews of governance and other training and development work with governing bodies throughout England.
Briar Lipson	Director of Curriculum & Innovation, Floreat	Briar has substantial experience of the theory and practice of state funded independent school policy in England. Having first become interested in public schooling while studying for an MA in Economics at the University of Edinburgh, she went on to co-author the Policy Exchange report More Good Teachers whose recommendations have been adopted almost wholeheartedly by the coalition government. Having learned much about the theory of teacher training, Briar joined the prestigious Teach First programme and has spent three years teaching maths in two London Academies. Subsequently Briar joined the Business Development team at CfBT Education Trust. Her commitment to genuine partnerships with community action groups helped secure the opening of three popular new Free Schools, and the approval of a further five to open in the coming years. Briar's first ever project for CfBT – All Saints Junior School, which was among the first batch of Free Schools to open in September 2011 – has already been rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted. After returning from a 3-week study visit to charter schools in New Orleans, Briar became a founding Director of Floreat Education - a charity focussed on human flourishing through the development of knowledge and virtues in all children.
Sonia Blandford	Professor of Educational Leadership & Innovation, Warwick	Professor Sonia Blandford is Founder and CEO of the national charity - Achievement for All 3As. Sonia is one of the UK's leading practitioners of education within the voluntary, community, charity and public sectors and is passionate about raising the aspirations, access, and achievement for all children and young people. A former Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of Education, Sonia is currently Professor of Education and Social Enterprise at the Institute of Education, London, and Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University and has published over 150 articles, columns and books on educational leadership, special educational needs, teaching and learning, professional development and music education. Sonia is an advisor to the UK government, European Commission and international governments. Sonia began her career as a music teacher and has held senior leadership posts in primary and secondary schools in Yorkshire, Wiltshire, Bath, London and Bristol. Sonia has also led national and international teacher and leadership development programmes as Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean (Canterbury Christ Church University) and Assistant Dean (Oxford Brookes University). Sonia has been actively involved in creating and sustaining of 7 charities that continue to provide educational, social and artistic opportunities for local and national communities, The Corsham Windband Association (1981 - Founder), The Pound Arts Centre (1994 - Founder), Teach First (2002 – Founding Ambassador), Music First (2009 – Trustee) Achievement for All (2011 – Founder), National Orchestra for All (2011 – Founding Adviser), Early Intervention Foundation (2013 – Founding Advisory CEO). Sonia is a keen musician and conductor participating in local, national and international festivals. Sonia is married with two daughters and lives in Newbury.
Sam Freedman	Director of Research & Impact, Teach First	Sam is Director of Research, Evaluation and Impact at Teach First. From 2009 to February 2013 he was an adviser to Michael Gove. After the 2010 election he worked as a senior policy adviser in the DfE focusing particularly on structural reform; funding and teacher training. Prior to working in Whitehall Sam was the Head of Education at Policy Exchange where he wrote reports on a wide variety of issues.
Louis Coiffait	CEO, NAHT Edge	Louis Coiffait is Head of Research in the Pearson Think Tank and in the Office of the Chief Education Advisor, Sir Michael Barber. He is interested in education policy, innovation and enterprise. He is also the Editor of Blue Skies, a growing collection of new thinking about the future of higher education and Open Ideas, an accessible source of ideas and evidence about what works in education. You can follow him on Twitter at @LouisMMCoiffait or read his blog for education policy comment, research and analysis. He is also a Fellow of the RSA and a regular volunteer; as Chair of Governors at an outstanding school in Hackney, as Governor of a federation of five schools, as Secretary of Hackney Governors Association, as a Prince's Trust enterprise mentor, as Chair of Trustees for a charity (University of Westminster Student Union), and running the social enterprise Work&Teach. Despite the name he lives in East London and hails from Yorkshire.
Patrick Leeson	Director of Education, Kent CC	Patrick Leeson is Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services, for Kent County Council. Previously he was Director, Education and Care, for Ofsted where he was responsible for policy on inspection of schools, initial teacher education, children's centres, early years and childcare, as well as the annual assessments of Local Authority Children's Services. Prior to joining Ofsted he was Strategic Director of Learning and Children's Services for the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, between 2002 and 2009, where he was responsible for education, children's social services as well as arts, libraries and adult education. Patrick has worked as a teacher and headteacher in secondary schools, and as an adviser and inspector before taking up senior officer roles in local government education and children's services. Patrick is a past Chair of the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) and was also on the national council for the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). He has been a member of the Advisory Groups for reviews of the Teacher Standards and the National Curriculum, and was on the steering group for the Tickell Review of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
Robin Pharoah	Founder, ESRO	Robin founded the market and social research company ESRO in 2004. Since then the company has worked across all sectors, providing insight and research to the likes of Google, Marks and Spencer, the Home Office and numerous local authorities. Of particular relevance to City Year, Robin and ESRO have carried out several unique studies looking at the realities of living in poverty or with disadvantage in Britain today - which seek to challenge assumptions and bring a fresh perspective to the understanding of need and the subsequent provision of services.
Caroline Whalley	Founder, Elliot Foundation	
Pauline Maddison	City Year UK Trustee	