

# Creating a Better Education. How to Improve and Achieve through Arts & Culture

## Presenter Biographies

### Steve Moffitt

#### **A New Direction**

Steve Moffitt is the CEO of A New Direction. In April 2012 AND was awarded funding by Arts Council England to become the lead Bridge for London, a strategic role to connect children and young people, schools and communities with art and culture. The Bridge remit involves advocating for Arts Award and Artsmark, networking and campaigning. Between 2008 - 11 A New Direction was the lead agency for Creative Partnerships in London working with hundreds of schools across the city and a range of creative and cultural organisations. Steve worked for English National Opera as Head of ENO Baylis between 1996 and 2002 and was Artistic Director and Associate Director of Theatre Venture between 1989 and 1996.

### Professor Maggie Atkinson

#### **Chair of A New Direction**

Maggie Atkinson became Children's Commissioner for England in March 2010, a statutory role in which she champions the interests of children in England, and across the UK for issues relating to asylum and immigration. Maggie was previously Director of Children's Services for Gateshead. She is past president of the Association of Directors of Children's Services and has chaired a number of national bodies relating to children's services.

### Dame Reena Keeble

#### **Chair of the Artsmark review**

Reena is a recently retired (August 2014) primary head teacher with 23 years of experience in leading at a local and system level in the state education sector. She has a proven track record in leading an outstanding school and in school to school to support, coaching future leaders, curriculum design and pedagogy. For the last year Reena has supported a school in an Ofsted RI category. Through a supporting but challenging coaching partnership Reena helped develop capacity at all levels so that the school could become a self-sustaining and self-improving school. Reena chaired the Primary Headteachers' Reference Group at the DfE and sat on the Ministerial Arts and Cultural Advisory Group. Reena led a Review of Artsmark on behalf of Arts Council England, resulting in a new Artsmark to be launched nationally in the October 2015

### Louise Coysh

#### **Art on the Underground**

Louise curates projects and manages public engagement activities that maximise the potential for collaborations between artists, Transport for London staff and communities. Since joining the team in 2008, projects include Mark Wallinger, *Labyrinth* (2013) 150th anniversary commission and *Labyrinth Engagement Programme*; Harold Offeh, *Transporter* (2013); Sarah Morris, *Big Ben [2012]* (2012); Michael Landy, *Acts of Kindness* (2010-12); Dryden Goodwin, *Linear: 60 portraits of Jubilee line staff*, and Matt Stokes, *The Stratford Gaff: A Serio-Comick-Bombastick-Operatick Interlude* (2010). Louise has a BA Fine Art from Northumbria University and MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art.