

Speaker biographies



National Intelligence event
Thursday 20 September 2012
Liberty Stadium, Swansea



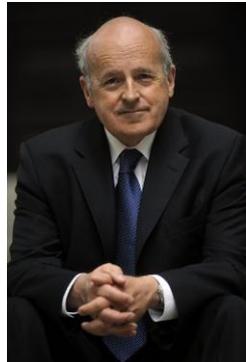
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Steve Thomas CBE

Steve Thomas is Chief Executive of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), taking up the post in March 2004. Steve has worked in local government since 1989 and subsequently undertook the project management of the reorganisation of Islwyn Borough Council leading up to the establishment of the new unitary authority, Caerphilly County Borough Council, in 1996.

The WLGA is the representative body for the 22 unitary authorities in Wales as well as the 4 police authorities, 3 national park authorities and 3 fire and rescue authorities. Steve is a well known figure within Welsh public policy and is a frequent contributor to the media, setting out the case for all areas of local authorities in Wales. He sits on a range of national bodies and is the Chair the Prince's Trust Cymru. Steve has a First Class Honours Degree in History and Politics and a Masters in Public Management. In November 2010, he was presented with a CBE for services to local government.



Professor Jonathan Shepherd

Jonathan Shepherd is professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at Cardiff University where he directs the University's violence and society research group. On the basis of his research he developed the prototype community safety partnership in Cardiff and the information sharing enterprise known as the Cardiff Model for violence prevention the implementation of which is a coalition government programme commitment. His team's research and advocacy also led to the historic first NICE guideline - on wisdom teeth operations - and the switch to toughened glassware in the UK licensed trade.

He is a campaigner for evidence led policy making and practice and is a member of the What Works Group chaired by the cabinet secretary, Sir Jeremy Heywood, and the NESTA-ESRC Alliance for Useful Evidence.

In 2008 he won the Stockholm Criminology Prize and was appointed CBE in the New Year honours. His group's research won Cardiff University a 2009 Queens Prize in higher education.

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Michael Paul Hughes AcSS

Michael Hughes is an independent policy adviser focusing on local public services.

Until May 2012 he was Director of Research at the Audit Commission where he oversaw the Commission's national studies. Before working for the Audit Commission, Michael worked for the Institute of Local Government Studies, and was its director from 2004-2006. At Inlogov, Michael led on public policy evaluations and developed research modules for the postgraduate teaching programme.

Michael has also worked for the Local Government Management Board, Birmingham City Council, and the Trades Union Congress.

Michael has researched and written on a wide range of public policy and management issues over the last three decades. He promotes the better use of data and evidence in decision-making.



Dale Hall BA, MSC

Originally an academic at Swansea University, Dale founded ORS as a social research practice in 1988, as an interface between the university and the statutory and voluntary sectors, and the company became a university spin-out company ten years later. Since then ORS has achieved a UK-wide reputation for thoughtful and innovative applied research across a wide range of social issues, particularly health, housing and local government.

As well as managing ORS, Dale has served on the Wales Medical Research Ethics Committee and as a non-executive director of a health authority and housing association. He is also a Research Fellow in the Centre for Public Policy Research at Swansea University and also at the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care, Glamorgan University.

While managing ORS, Dale is involved in project delivery, particularly the design and management of high profile statutory consultations – such as ORS' current consultations for the Hywel Dda and Betsi Cadwalladr Health Boards on the reconfiguration of hospital and healthcare services. Dale is especially interested in education, equality and diversity, emergency services, healthcare, housing, and Gypsy and Traveller studies.

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Andrew Stephens

Andrew is the Executive Director of the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales. The Data Unit is part of the local government family in Wales. It provides a range of support to the Welsh Local Government Association, Welsh local authorities and their partners. Areas where the Unit provides support and input include: survey design and analysis; data collection, management and dissemination; performance measurement and management; benchmarking; and IT system development and support. The Unit either leads or plays an active role in a number of networks within Wales.

In addition to having overall responsibility for the day to day management of the Data Unit, Andrew represents Welsh local government on a number of strategic and working groups. Prior to moving to the Data Unit, Andrew held a variety of posts in the Office for National Statistics, including managing large data collections, statistical methodology and quality, and developing national statistics policies.



Amanda Williams

Mandy has managed Participation Cymru since July 2009. Participation Cymru is a national organisation part funded by Welsh Government under the direction of the Minister for Local Government and Communities.

The organisation offers advice, support and training to public service organisations in Wales around effective engagement with public, service users, communities and staff. Its work is overseen by a partnership made up of a number of national umbrella bodies with an interest in public service organisations in Wales.

In her current role Mandy has overseen the development of the National Principles for Public Engagement and the accredited Public Engagement training for Local Service Board partner organisations. Previously, Mandy worked for the Church in Wales for 14 years in community development, staff selection and recruitment and more recently external communications. She has also worked within the Third sector in staff development and training. Mandy has an interest in professional and personal development, is a trained facilitator and trainer, and a Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) practitioner.

Mandy lives with her husband, 2 children and Cocker Spaniel in South West Wales and is a Welsh speaker. Her interests include walking, reading and cooking.

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Ceri Thomas

**Head of European Social Fund Local Service Board
Development and Priority Delivery Project**

An experienced civil servant who has worked for the Welsh Government and predecessors in Wales, Whitehall and beyond, currently leading the team that is delivering the £ 17 million ESF LSB project that is supporting over 27 individual projects across the Convergence area that all use collaboration to improve public services.

Ceri has previously programme managed the second phase of developing the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, was Head Of Finance and Corporate Governance in the Wales Office leading work on the Comprehensive Spending Review, Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Wales, led work on establishing the Forensic Psychiatric Service and Neonatal Intensive Care network in Wales and later the simplification of the operation of the EU Beef Premium Claim scheme alongside implementation of the Agenda 2000 Common Agriculture Policy Changes in Wales. He was seconded to Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board, the Welsh Development Agency International Division and to the Department of Agriculture in the Republic of Ireland.

Married to Andree with two children. Between being family taxi driver he fits in watching rugby and serves as a Governor in two local schools.



Dr Jenny Murphy

As a Senior Data Systems Consultant at the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales Jenny's current role covers general data support as well as survey advice and guidance.

Jenny has worked at the Data Unit for nearly ten years. During this time she has contributed to a wide range of projects including managing the Living in Wales surveys, compiling and using data for the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, data presentation training and population and Census.

She is a Chartered Statistician with the Royal Society of Statisticians and provides support, advice and guidance around statistical matters across the local government family.