



Speaker Biographies

**Widening Participation in Apprenticeships:
barriers for BAME representation and how to overcome them**

Online event

Nathan Dennis, Director - Legacy Consultants

I am a consultant and trainer, that specialises in BAME stakeholder engagement strategies. Through our Legacy Consultants arm, powered by First Class Legacy, we provide a number of services and training. Giving advice, consultancy and problem solving using my creativity & strategy we help clients with their different stakeholder engagement needs, with years of experience engaging youth and BAME communities.

I am a trustee of First Class Foundation Charity that seeks to work with young people to tackle youth violence, improve their mental health resilience and connect them their purpose via Jobs & opportunities.

I believe learning should be transformational, it should stimulate thinking and behavioural change. That's why I don't do ordinary, it doesn't create change, it doesn't shift people into a new space & thinking, and that's what I'm about. For over a decade I have been leading and have over 15 years of experience in youth & diverse community engagement strategies. I create and facilitate fun, professional & motivational learning environment that helps staff at all levels.

My work has led me to win and be nominated for a number of prestigious awards from Barclays, Birmingham City Council, The Education Awards 2017, the Unsung Hero's Midlands Awards 2018 and in 2019 Won People's Choice Awards by Phoenix Newspaper

I have experience working with companies like the Royal Shakespeare company, KPMG, National Mind and Mears. Through my work with First Class Legacy I help companies think differently about how they engage diverse, young people & communities.

I help connect you to young people & local communities, using years of experience, of helping many different companies more effectively engage, connect & build lasting relationships with those deemed hard to reach.

My independently evaluated methodology ensures that both clients & their services users win & get the results they require.

Centre to everything I do is the love for my Wife Sabrina & our 4 daughters. I have a passion and desire to create the best possible future for them & others.

<http://legacyconsultants.co.uk>

Paul Evans, CEO - Leadership Through Sport

Leadership Through Sport & Business is a social mobility charity that recruits, prepares and supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into meaningful careers with major firms. We make sure those at risk of under-employment find careers equal to their ambition and ability and can contribute from their first day on the job.

Paul has a professional background in Youth & Education services, Sport for Development and Homelessness. Previously he was CEO at national education charity UFA and before that Managing Director at the award winning, Street League.

In 2016 A government report ranked his hometown of Newark as one of the worst places in England to live for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, placing the district 323rd out 324. Paul thinks reports like this are harmful and de-motivating and has dedicated his career to increasing social mobility in marginalised groups and contributing to a world where all young people flourish, regardless of their background.

He holds a First-Class Honours Degree in Business and Management, a Diploma in Psychotherapy and qualified to Level 4 as a Teacher of Further Education.

In 2009 he was invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) and proud to hold full membership of the Chartered Management Institute (MCMi)

Mark Lomas - Head of EDI, HS2

Mark has delivered numerous diversity and inclusion projects in the UK and internationally for organisations ranging from The Financial Reporting Council and Sheffield University to Bermuda Hospital Board and the BBC.

Mark is a published author on the topic of equality and diversity having authored the Law Society E&D Risk & Compliance Toolkit, which assists law firms to comply with regulation, and is the co-author of research published for Arts Council England on Goal 5: Equality & Diversity for Young People in the arts.

Mark is an executive committee member of the RIDI (Recruitment Industry Disability Initiative) campaign and is a trustee for the Mama Youth Project which trains disadvantaged young people to access careers in media. He took up his current role in 2016 and HS2 was named the VERCIDA No.1 Gender Inclusive Employer in the UK.