

North Alliance Conference 4 October 2017

Influencing Change in the North

Keynote Speakers

Marion Allison

Head of the CLD Standards Council

Marion has over 20 years' experience in the sector as a Youth Work Manager, Associate Assessor for HMI and also lectured on the BA/BA (Hons) Community Education Course at the University of the West of Scotland. Her current doctoral research focuses on young people, entrepreneurship and social networks.

Dave Simmers

CEO, Community Food Initiatives North East

'76 – '97: 20 years in local government: community worker in Aberdeen's poorest community ('76-'83); Area Community Education Officer ('83-'84); Education Development Office ('83-'87); Head of Social Strategy ('87-'97), Grampian Regional Council.

'97 - '07: Community Development Consultant, undertook >100 contracts including from '97 to '04 contracts to support and develop CFINE (see below)

'98 – '05: As a volunteer, set up and subsequently co-ordinated, the Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project.

'04 – present: Chief Executive Community Food Initiatives North East, a charity and social enterprise focusing on improving health and well-being and the environment, increasing employability and creating employment with and for disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals, families and communities across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire – plus Moray in relation to our FareShare scheme..

'83 – '16: voluntary passion was credit unions: chairperson, North East Scotland Credit Union ('04 – '16); Vice President, Scottish League of Credit Unions (for 10 years until '04). In '83, initiated what became St Machar Credit Union and in '94 initiated and set up Grampian Credit Union, chaired for 7 years.

Personal, most important – Ava, a 6 year old granddaughter – glorious!