

IFAL Conference – 27 September 2016 Speakers and workshops

David Babbs – keynote speaker

David Babbs is Executive Director of 38 Degrees. 38 Degrees was founded in memory of Anita Roddick, a champion of the power of ordinary people to make a difference. David was previously Head of Activism at Friends of the Earth. He frequently speaks at local 38 Degrees events and has represented 38 Degrees in front of parliamentary select committees. David describes his motivation for campaigning as coming from "a gut feeling that things could be better, politically, socially, and environmentally and that the reason they're not better is largely due to the conscious actions of powerful people rather than due to bad luck or any sort of natural order. Campaigning together is how we work together to challenge that and change things."



Included below, you will find brief descriptions of the diverse range of short stories and workshops that IFAL will be presenting at this year's conference on Action Learning and Social Change. The 3 short stories will be told to the whole conference. The six workshops will be run in two parallel sessions of three workshops, so that delegates will be able to attend two workshops out of the six on offer.

THREE SHORT STORIES:

Ewa Francis - Action Learning, Social Capital and Competitive Advantage

Ewa will share how her extremely successful project strengthened the quality of existing informal conversations by elevating them into learning conversations and helped participants in the project learn from each other. Outcomes included greater collaboration, the transfer of ownership 'back to the people', and positive behaviour change.

Charles Margerison – Social change is the result of any effective action learning at the personal, team, community, corporate or country levels

Charles knew and worked with Reg Revans. He will take us back to the roots of action learning and talk about social change in mines, hospitals, engineering companies and government organisations.

Lynne Hale – Using action learning to support leaders and social entrepreneurs in the community

Lynne will share her experience of setting up, and working with participants in, community action learning projects. She will reflect on her own personal learning and the outcomes for participants in their life and work.

SIX 90-MINUTE WORKSHOPS:

Stephen Moss – Working with the LankellyChase Foundation

Stephen's work involved working with project leaders to tackle severe and multiple disadvantage through funding system-changing projects. Stephen will explore difficulties around systems leadership and the challenges of influencing wider commissioning systems and then invite workshop participants to explore these themes in their own practice.



Anneli Valpola, Anne Haggren, and Leena Korppoo – Government Health care and Social Welfare changes in Finland

The healthcare, social welfare and regional government reform package is one of the biggest administrative overhauls in Finland and affects the life of every citizen. The workshop will include guided discussion, interactive dialogue and knowledge sharing.



Christine Thornton – The Hall of Mirrors: understanding how group processes contribute to learning and change in action learning sets

Christine's workshop explores the underlying group dynamics of action learning sets, and presents research about critical factors in using group experiences to maximise learning for individuals. The workshop is participative, with a mixture of exercises, presentation and discussion.



Stefan Bergstrand – Action learning driven development and change in the Swedish welfare sector

Stefan's workshop poses a question. In cash-strapped public services, how can action learning contribute to a holistic strategy to promote learning driven development and change in the whole welfare sector? In exploring the above question, the workshop will discuss - through presentation and interactive learning conversations - how educators of professionals in social care and youth work can use action learning strategies to positively impact individuals, groups, management, and organisational structures.



Adrian Nixon – Unexpected outcomes from working with the Chief Executives of several different charities

Adrian will present a case study that began as a series of action learning sets for Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of third sector organisations in West Yorkshire, UK. The action learning sets were highly successful, however the CEOs realised that some of the issues they were dealing with were bigger than any one organisation. A new multi-organisation approach was created that



extended action learning principles to help organisations cooperate and address societal issues together. The work was so well received it became a case study for a Cabinet Office report for the UK Government. The workshop will give delegates an opportunity to engage with the model, draw conclusions, and compare these with what actually happened.

Tomasz Janiak – Tom will introduce the WIAL method of action learning Tom's workshop will present the specific method of the World Institute for Action Learning and describe the ways in which it can develop social leaders. You will have a chance to learn how the WIAL variety differs from other forms of Action Learning and conduct WIAL Action Learning sessions. You will also discuss how, using Action Learning, we can take modern social leadership a step further.

