



Confederation of Indian Industry



Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce



2026

A Skills-Led Leadership Conference & Expo for Women shaping what comes next.

22 June 2026

The Midland, Manchester



2026

THANK YOU

Every event is shaped by the people who choose to be part of it.

Our sincere thanks go to our speakers, partners, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers and delegates for contributing your time, expertise, energy and generosity to RISE 2026. Special thanks to Sandra McManus, the team at Bolton Sixth Form College and the student volunteers whose enthusiasm, professionalism and support have helped bring this conference to life. Most importantly, thank you for showing up. For sharing ideas. For asking questions. For starting conversations. For being willing to learn from one another and contribute to a future that is more connected, more inclusive and full of possibility.

Continue the Journey

She Inspires Awards 2026

Recognising achievement and celebrating extraordinary women.
Nominate. Apply. Attend.



Empower 50K Girls Afternoon Tea

Cloud 23, Manchester

Join us as we continue our mission to empower girls to own their Health, Wealth and Worth. Every ticket helps support workshops, resources and opportunities for the next generation.
Because She Matters.



The Marketplace

Connecting trusted businesses.

Discover, connect and collaborate with trusted professionals, organisations and women-led businesses across the She Inspires network.



**The conversations may end today, but the journey continues.
Stay connected. Stay inspired. Stay involved.**

www.sheinspires.org.uk

Recognising Achievement. Creating Opportunity. Inspiring Change.

WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDER

Gulnaz Brennan

Welcome to RISE 2026.

RISE was born from a simple observation. Throughout my journey with She Inspires, I have met remarkable women leading businesses, driving innovation, educating future generations, strengthening communities, and creating meaningful change. Yet many had never met one another. Their expertise, experience, and ideas existed in separate spaces.



RISE exists to bring those voices together.

This is more than a conference. It is a meeting of minds, a space for conversation, collaboration, and possibility. A place where ideas are shared, perspectives are challenged, and connections become opportunities.

Today, you will hear from leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, innovators, professionals, students, and changemakers. Some will share stories of success. Others will share lessons learned through resilience and determination. Together, they remind us that leadership is not defined by a title, but by the difference we make and the opportunities we create for others.

What makes RISE special is not only what happens on stage, but what happens beyond it. The conversations over coffee. The unexpected introductions. The exchange of ideas. The moment someone discovers a new opportunity, a new partnership, or a new level of confidence in themselves.

The future will not be shaped by one organisation, one sector, or one voice. It will be shaped by people willing to listen, learn, collaborate, and lead together.

Thank you to our speakers, sponsors, partners, volunteers, and delegates for being part of this journey. I hope you leave today with valuable connections, fresh thinking, and renewed belief in what is possible. Most importantly, I hope you leave knowing that your voice matters, your contribution matters, and that together we can help shape a future that is more inclusive, innovative, and connected.

Gulnaz Brennan

Founder, RISE Women Leading the Future



ABOUT RISE

FROM STAGE TO STRATEGY

RISE was created because recognition alone is not enough. For more than a decade, She Inspires has celebrated the achievements of women through its awards programme, recognising those who are leading, innovating, creating change and making a difference in their communities, professions and industries. Yet one question continued to surface.

What happens next?

What happens after the applause? After the award has been presented? After the photographs have been taken and the celebration comes to an end?

The answer is RISE.

RISE did not emerge in isolation. It sits alongside the She Inspires Awards, the She Inspires Foundation, Empower 50K Girls, The Marketplace and a growing community of women committed to supporting one another's success. Together they form an ecosystem designed not simply to recognise achievement, but to create opportunities for growth, collaboration and impact. RISE represents the next stage of the journey; moving from recognition to growth, from visibility to opportunity and from stage to strategy. Research consistently shows that women continue to face barriers in leadership, investment, progression and access to influential networks. The challenge is not a lack of talent. The challenge is ensuring talented women have access to the knowledge, networks, opportunities and support that help them thrive.

That is where conferences like RISE matter.

When people from different sectors come together, ideas travel. Perspectives broaden. Collaborations emerge. Problems are viewed differently. Opportunities are identified. Relationships are formed that can influence careers, businesses, organisations and communities long after the event itself has ended. Throughout the day, delegates will engage with leaders from business, education, health, law, technology, sport, media, culture, international trade and community development.

At its heart, RISE is built on a simple belief: when women are connected, supported and given opportunities to learn from one another, everyone benefits.

Not simply to celebrate leadership, but to develop it.
Not simply to recognise achievement, but to create opportunity.
Not simply to bring people together for a day, but to spark conversations, connections and collaborations that continue long after the conference ends.

**Because the journey does not end on the stage.
In many ways, that is where it begins.**

MEET THE CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

Sandra McManus

Behind every successful conference is someone who brings people, ideas, and opportunities together. For RISE 2026, that person is Sandra McManus.

Sandra is an experienced leader, executive coach, and passionate advocate for education, leadership, and personal development. Throughout a career spanning more than two decades, she has supported students, educators, professionals, and organisations to build confidence, develop skills, and realise their potential.

Many will know Sandra through her leadership role at Bolton Sixth Form College, where she has helped countless young people prepare for their futures. She is also the founder of the Women into Leadership programme, which supports young women to develop confidence, ambition, and leadership skills through mentoring and practical experiences.

A She Inspires Award winner and long-standing supporter of the She Inspires community, Sandra has consistently championed the power of confidence, connection, and collaboration.

As Conference Director, Sandra has helped shape RISE into a platform that brings together women from diverse sectors to share ideas, build relationships, and inspire action. Her vision has been to create an event that is informative, engaging, and focused on lasting impact.

Sandra believes leadership is not defined by title or position, but by the ability to create opportunities for others to thrive—a philosophy that sits at the heart of RISE.

“Leadership is about helping others see what is possible and giving them the confidence to achieve it.”

Sandra McManus

Conference Director

RISE – Women Leading the Future





She. Inspires Awards

**Wednesday 18 November 2026
Bolton Stadium Hotel**

**Celebrate Achievement.
Inspire the Future.**

**Join us for an unforgettable evening of
recognition, inspiration, and celebration.**



**Book your tickets
sheinspires.org.uk**

**Because success deserves
to be celebrated.**

STRATEGIC PARTNERS & SPONSORS



CONFERENCE PARTNERS & SPONSORS



Together, these organisations are helping create opportunities for learning, collaboration, innovation and leadership development. Their support enables RISE to bring together leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, students and changemakers from a wide range of sectors, creating conversations that extend far beyond a single day.



A Skills-Led Leadership Conference

MEET YOUR HOST

Michelle Eagleton

Michelle Eagleton is an experienced television and radio presenter, broadcast journalist, event host and speaker with more than two decades of experience in the media industry.

Her career has included work across BBC Radio Manchester, Key 103, GMTV, BBC Breakfast and BBC One's Morning Live. She has interviewed many high-profile figures including Sir David Attenborough, Cher, Gary Barlow, Dame Joan Collins and Cate Blanchett, and has reported from major national events including the BAFTAs and the British Soap Awards.

Before broadcasting, Michelle worked as an actress, appearing in programmes including Heartbeat, Coronation Street and Children's Ward. Her background in performance and storytelling has helped shape her engaging and approachable style as a presenter.

At RISE 2026, Michelle will host a number of the conference's flagship conversations, helping speakers explore leadership, opportunity, innovation and the future of women across sectors. Her ability to draw out authentic stories and create meaningful conversations makes her an ideal guide for a conference focused on leadership, opportunity and change.

Michelle Eagleton

Television & Radio Presenter | Broadcast Journalist | Event Host



MEET YOUR HOST

Angela Kelly

Angela Kelly is one of Greater Manchester's most respected journalists and community storytellers. With a journalism career spanning more than five decades, she has worked as a reporter, feature writer, editor and communications professional, helping organisations, businesses, charities and individuals share their stories and connect with wider audiences.



Known throughout Bolton and beyond for her warmth, professionalism and genuine interest in people, Angela has become a trusted voice across the region's business, voluntary and community sectors. For decades she has championed the visibility of local people, ensuring that achievements, ideas and community contributions are recognised and celebrated. Her work has consistently shone a spotlight on entrepreneurs, community leaders, volunteers and changemakers whose stories might otherwise have remained untold. Alongside her journalism, Angela has served on numerous community and charitable boards and remains passionate about helping organisations, businesses, charities and individuals share their stories..

A long-standing supporter of She Inspires, Angela has helped tell the stories of countless women whose achievements deserve recognition.

At RISE 2026, Angela will host a series of intimate fireside conversations exploring leadership, confidence, wellbeing, culture, personal transformation and future opportunities.

Angela Kelly

Journalist | Writer | Media Consultant | Community Champion

2026

DERBY SUITE

Understanding the Landscape

09:00–09:15

Welcome Address

Gulnaz Brennan – Founder, She Inspires Group
Setting the tone for a day of leadership, innovation and opportunity.

09:15–10:00

Leadership: Life in the C-Suite

What does it take to lead at the highest levels of business?
Emma Degg – Chief Executive, NWBL Team
Alex Wilkinson – Sales Director at SCC
Helen McHugh – Founder, Marsden Strategy

10:00–10:15

Fireside Chat: Beyond the Network

Why collaboration matters for women in business.
Lucy Mulligan – Executive Director of Marketing,
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

10:15–11:00

Reversing the Matilda Effect: Claiming Space, Credit & Voice

Exploring visibility, recognition and influence for women leaders.
Cheryl Bates, Beth Stansfield, Safaa Alazzam, Shailja Arya,
Danielle Ramsbottom and Bashir Shama
In partnership with Dematic

11:20–11:35

Leading Across Borders: A Leadership Journey Between the UK and India

Shehla Hasan – UK Director, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

11:35–12:15

The Power of Recognition

Why awards matter, what we've learned, and what comes next.
Gulnaz Brennan – Founder, She Inspires Group

12:15–12:55

The Fertility Conversation We Need to Have

Dr Anil Gudi – Consultant in Reproductive Medicine and Fertility Specialist
Keynote conversation followed by audience Q&A.

Building Your Path

13:45–14:30

Beyond Borders: Women, Trade and Opportunity in the New UK–India Era

Exploring trade, technology, partnerships and global opportunities for women.

Shehla Hasan | Subha Verma | Aditi Sarao

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

14:30–15:15

Power, Protection & Possibility

How law creates confidence, security and opportunity for women.

Debbie Coyne | Rachel Fletcher | Carla Murray

SlaterHeelis Solicitors

15:15–15:30

Women in Sport: Playing the Game, Changing the Game

Kate Cross – England International Cricketer and Broadcaster

15:30–16:15

Beyond the Game: Leadership, Opportunity & Influence in Sport

Different sports. Same barriers?

Daniel Gidney – Chief Executive, Lancashire Cricket Club

Grace Robinson | Daniella Sutton | Angela Kelly

16:15–16:35

Closing Plenary

Turning insight into action.

Sandra McManus – Director, RISE 2026

LANCASTER SUITE

Building Future Capability

09:15–10:00

The Skills Gap: Are We Preparing Women?

Exploring the gaps between education, skills development and workplace readiness.

Emily Mathews – Head of Stakeholder Engagement, NWBL Team

Professor Janice Allen – Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic Leadership, University of Lancashire

Hannah Croskery – Apple Distinguished Educator and Specialist in Educational Technology

Rebecca Leech – Director of Learner Experience and Essential Skills, Chelmsford College

10:00–10:15

Social Mobility, Skills and Networking

Exploring how access, opportunity and networks can shape career progression and social mobility.

Marie Hamilton – Strategic Partnership Director, Microsoft

10:15–11:00

Powering Progress: Women's Leadership in Utilities

Examining leadership, innovation and impact across the utilities sector.

Emily Timmons – Director of Water Recycling, Anglian Water

Julia Stichling – Managing Director, R2M Limited

Victoria Grayson – Support Services Director, Network Plus

In partnership with Network Plus.

11:20–11:35

Driving Change: Advancing Financial Literacy and Independence for Women

Exploring how financial knowledge can create confidence, choice and opportunity.

Sandra McManus – Director, RISE 2026

11:35–12:15

AI Unlocked

Understanding the practical impact of artificial intelligence and its opportunities for organisations and individuals.

Deb Millar OBE – Speaker, AI Consultant and Digital Transformation Specialist

12:15–12:55

Money Mastery Lab

Building financial confidence through practical strategies, tools and informed decision-making.

Kaye Price – Founder, KP Financial Wellbeing

Kelly Jackson – Managing Director, Jackson Accountants

In partnership with Jackson Accountants & KP Financial Wellbeing

13:45–14:30

Workplace Culture: Creating an Environment Where People Rise

Exploring how positive workplace cultures support performance, wellbeing and growth.

Sarah Birdsey – MD and Owner, Nicholls Solicitors

14:30–15:15

The Power of a Stepping Stone

A conversation about mentorship, encouragement and the opportunities that help people move forward.

Jackie Hyde – Managing Director, Stanmore Insurance Brokers

Jenny Matthews – Founder, Enterprise Bridge CIC

Sue Cain – Recipient, Stacey's Stepping Stone Award

In partnership with Stanmore Insurance Brokers.

15:15–15:30

Leading Change: Influence, Inclusion and Impact

Exploring how leaders create meaningful change through influence, visibility and purpose.

Dr Hema Prem Raina – Vice President, Insurance Europe, Infosys; Council Head, ESG Social Sustainability (DE&I), Infosys EMEA

15:30–16:15

Tap into Talent: Success Stories and Strategies for Leadership Progression in Male-Dominated Sectors

Sharing practical insights on leadership, career progression and creating opportunities in traditionally male-dominated industries.

Katie Moffatt – Career Pathways Lead, United Utilities

Lauren Rigg – Senior Regulatory Litigator

Kate Scott – Transformation and Strategic Programme Manager

In partnership with United Utilities.

CHESTER SUITE

Stories. Conversations. Insights. Inspiration.

Hosted by Angela Kelly

10:15 – 10:45

Leadership Beyond Titles

Samantha Lancashire

Leadership is not defined by a job title but by the ability to influence, inspire and create positive change. Samantha Lancashire explores how confidence, authenticity and purpose can help individuals make an impact at every stage of their personal and professional journey.

11:00 – 11:30

Building Future Leaders Early

Aisha Saeed

A conversation exploring the importance of nurturing confidence, ambition and leadership from an early stage. Aisha Saeed shares insights into how apprenticeships, graduate opportunities and investment in future talent can help build stronger organisations and brighter futures.

11:45-12:15

One Conversation Can Change Everything

Susie Sprigg

Explore how authentic connections, personal visibility and meaningful relationships can open doors, create opportunities and transform careers, businesses and lives. Discover why the most powerful opportunities often begin with a simple conversation, and how building genuine relationships can create lasting impact far beyond the first introduction.

12:30 – 13:00

Style, Confidence & Presence

Natacha Diskin

Personal style is about more than appearance; it is closely connected to confidence, self-belief and how we present ourselves to the world. Natacha Diskin explores the relationship between style, wellbeing and professional presence, and how authenticity can become a powerful leadership tool.

CHESTER SUITE

14:00 – 14:45

Global Leadership & International Perspectives

Sohini Roy Chowdhury

Drawing on international experience and cross-cultural perspectives, Sohini Roy Chowdhury explores leadership beyond borders, the opportunities available to women globally and the importance of cultural understanding in an increasingly connected world.

Interactive Workshop: The Power of Mudras

Following the fireside conversation, delegates will take part in a practical workshop introducing the ancient practice of mudras. Participants will discover how simple hand gestures can support mindfulness, focus, wellbeing and personal balance in everyday life.

15:00 – 15:30

From Award Winner to Empower50K Champion

Sue France

Sue France shares her inspiring journey from She Inspires Award winner to passionate advocate for Empower50K Girls. Her story demonstrates how recognition can become a catalyst for personal growth, leadership and creating opportunities for the next generation.

15:30 – 16:00

Hot Flushes & Cool Workplaces

Dr Bev Matta & Dr Julie Hall

An honest and practical conversation about menopause, workplace culture and wellbeing. Dr Bev Matta and Dr Julie Hall explore how organisations can create supportive environments where women feel understood, valued and empowered to thrive throughout every stage of life.

Throughout the day, the Chester Suite celebrates the power of conversation, lived experience and shared learning, reminding us that some of the most valuable insights often come from listening to the journeys of others.



VOICES OF RISE

Conversations with Women Leading the Future

Hosted by Nicola Sands

Sponsored by Applehead Media

Nicola Sands is an award-winning former television journalist, podcast host and co-founder of Applehead Media. Following a successful career with ITV News, where she received recognition including Royal Television Society Presenter of the Year, Nicola has built a reputation for helping people tell powerful stories with authenticity, clarity and impact. At RISE 2026, Nicola will host the Voices of RISE Podcast Studio, capturing the insights, experiences and reflections of speakers, sponsors, partners and delegates throughout the day.



ABOUT THE STUDIO EXPERIENCE

The Voices of RISE Podcast Studio has been created as a space where stories can be preserved, shared and amplified. Throughout the conference, guests will take part in relaxed and engaging conversations about leadership, business, innovation, personal growth, community impact and the lessons learned along the way. The Voices of RISE Podcast Studio ensures that the ideas, experiences and inspiration shared throughout the conference continue long after the event itself has ended.



ABOUT APPLEHEAD MEDIA

Founded by Nicola and Stephen Sands, Applehead Media combines broadcast journalism, television production and digital storytelling expertise to help organisations communicate with clarity, credibility and impact through podcasts, video and powerful storytelling.

VOICES OF RISE - Houghton Suite

PODCAST SCHEDULE

09:30 – 10:00	Rebecca Wray
10:10 – 10:40	Julie Robinson
10:50 – 11:20	Faria Arsh
11:30 – 12:00	Emma Guy
12:10 – 12:40	Lucy Hart
13:40 – 14:10	Parveen Kauser Ahmed
14:20 – 14:50	Nathalie Speakman
15:00 – 15:30	Kelly Jackson
15:40 – 16:10	Samantha Lancashire

Every conversation has the power to inspire a new idea, a new connection or a new opportunity.



A Skills-Led Leadership Conference



ABOUT SHE INSPIRES

More Than Recognition. A Movement for Growth, Leadership and Impact.

Every story begins somewhere.

Sometimes with an idea. Sometimes with a challenge. Sometimes with a quiet belief that things could be better than they are. She Inspires began with a simple observation: extraordinary women were doing extraordinary things every day, yet many of their stories remained unseen. They were leading businesses, transforming communities, educating future generations, caring for others, creating opportunities and overcoming barriers, often without recognition and without a platform from which their experiences could inspire others.

What started as a desire to shine a light on those stories has grown into something much bigger.

Over the years, She Inspires has become a place where achievements are recognised, confidence is built, connections are formed and opportunities are created. It is a community that brings together women from different backgrounds, sectors and stages of life, united not by a single profession or ambition, but by a shared belief in the power of supporting one another. At its heart is a simple truth: success is rarely achieved alone. Behind every achievement is a conversation, a mentor, a supporter, a teacher, a friend, a network, a moment of encouragement or a door that somebody chose to open. Progress happens when people share what they know, celebrate one another's successes and create opportunities for others to thrive.

That belief continues to shape everything we do.

The She Inspires Awards were created to recognise women whose contributions deserve to be seen and celebrated. For many recipients, recognition becomes far more than a trophy or title. It becomes validation, confidence and often the beginning of a new chapter. Time and again, we have seen women step onto the stage and leave with something even more valuable than an award: a renewed belief in themselves and a community standing beside them.

Yet recognition is only one part of the journey.

RISE was created because visibility alone is not enough. Women also need spaces where they can learn, collaborate, influence and help shape the future. If the Awards celebrate achievement, RISE creates the conversations that transform achievement into leadership, strategy and impact. It is where ideas are exchanged, relationships are formed and possibilities begin to take shape.



Alongside these initiatives sits the She Inspires Foundation, extending our commitment into communities through programmes focused on education, wellbeing, financial literacy and empowerment.

This commitment is reflected powerfully in **Empower 50K Girls**, an ambitious initiative dedicated to helping fifty thousand girls understand and own their Health, Wealth and Worth. It is rooted in the belief that confidence, knowledge and aspiration should never be determined by circumstance, and that when girls are given the tools to believe in themselves, entire communities benefit.

As the community continues to grow, so does the desire to create practical opportunities for collaboration, visibility and economic growth. **The She Inspires Marketplace**, launching this year, is the next step in that journey, connecting trusted women-led businesses, products and services with new audiences, opportunities and partnerships.

Together, these initiatives form an ecosystem designed to support women at every stage of their journey. From recognition to leadership. From inspiration to action. From personal growth to collective impact.

Yet the true measure of She Inspires is not found in the number of events held, awards presented or programmes delivered. It is found in the woman who discovers the confidence to take the next step. The entrepreneur who finds support through a new connection. The young person who begins to see possibilities where previously they saw limitations. The mentor who chooses to guide someone else. The collaboration that begins with a conversation. The friendship that starts with a shared story.

These moments may never make headlines, yet they are often where the most meaningful change begins. Because lasting impact is rarely created by individuals working alone. It is created when people come together, share their experiences, support one another and commit to building something greater than themselves.

That is the spirit of She Inspires.

**Recognising Achievement.
Creating Opportunity.
Inspiring Change.**



A Skills-Led Leadership Conference

EXPLORE THE MARKETPLACE

Discover products, services, expertise and opportunities from organisations and professionals who are helping individuals, businesses and communities thrive. Throughout the day, we encourage you to visit the exhibition area, start conversations, ask questions and explore opportunities for collaboration, learning and growth.

Rebecca Wray Coaching

Supporting leaders, professionals and entrepreneurs through coaching, personal development and strategies that unlock confidence, clarity and performance.

The Wellbeing Farm

An award-winning events venue and social enterprise, creating memorable experiences through hospitality, sustainability and community engagement.

Tropic Skincare

Natural, ethically sourced skincare and beauty products designed to promote healthy skin, wellbeing and confidence.

DECAMA Limited

Supporting organisations to measure, track and improve employee wellbeing, creating healthier workplaces where people and performance can flourish.

She Inspires Awards

Recognising achievement, celebrating success and creating opportunities for women through visibility, connection and community.

Savvy Style

Helping individuals build confidence through personal styling, image consultancy and professional presence.

Her Health Hub

Providing education, resources and support to help women take charge of their health, wellbeing and long-term quality of life.

Jackson Accountants

Professional accountancy, taxation and business advisory services supporting businesses at every stage of their journey.

KP Financial Wellbeing

Helping individuals and organisations build financial confidence through practical education, guidance and wellbeing-focused financial support.

Nicholls Solicitors

Providing trusted legal advice and support for individuals, families and businesses across a wide range of legal matters.

Visit the exhibitors throughout the day, discover new ideas, build valuable connections and explore the expertise available within the RISE community.



Where visibility turns into opportunity

A Trusted Ecosystem for Purpose-Led Organisations

The She Inspires Marketplace brings together a carefully curated community of businesses, professionals, and organisations united by a shared commitment to excellence, integrity, and impact.

Membership is by application, creating a trusted environment where relationships are built on credibility rather than transactions.

Founding Member Applications Now Open

- Curated and trusted community
- Enhanced credibility and recognition
- Strategic partnerships and opportunities
- Access to a growing ecosystem of leaders and decision-makers

Scan the QR code to learn more and apply for **Founding Membership**.

sheinspires.org.uk/marketplace



MEET THE SPEAKERS, PANELLISTS & CONTRIBUTORS

Many Voices. One Shared Purpose. Shaping What Comes Next.

Aditi Sarao – Head Insurance UK & Ireland, Tech Mahindra

Aisha Saeed – Early Careers Manager, Addleshaw Goddard LLP

Alex Wilkinson – Sales Director, SCC

Angela Kelly – Journalist, Writer, Media Consultant & Community Champion

Bashir Shama – Dematic

Beth Stansfield – Technical Writer, Dematic

Carla Murray – Slater Heelis Solicitors

Cheryl Bates – Senior Commissioning Engineer, Dematic

Daniella Sutton – BRDC Rising Star & British F4 Driver

Daniel Gidney – Chief Executive, Lancashire Cricket Club

Danielle Ramsbottom – CEO & Founder

Deb Millar OBE – AI Consultant, Speaker & Digital Transformation Specialist

Debbie Coyne – Slater Heelis Solicitors

Dr Anil Gudi – Consultant in Reproductive Medicine & Fertility Specialist

Dr Bev Matta – Co-Founder, Her Health Hub

Dr Hema Prem Raina – Vice President, Insurance Europe, Infosys; Council Head, ESG Social Sustainability (DE&I), Infosys EMEA

Dr Julie Hall – Co-Founder, Her Health Hub

Emily Mathew – Head of Stakeholder Engagement, NWBL Team

Emily Timmins – Director of Water Recycling, Anglian Water

Emma Degg – Chief Executive, NWBL Team

Emma Guy – Voices of RISE Contributor

Faria Arsh – Voices of RISE Contributor

Grace Robinson – Paralympic Pathway Swimmer, Author & Advocate

Gulnaz Brennan – Founder, She Inspires Group

Hannah Croskery – Apple Distinguished Educator & Educational Technology Specialist

Helen McHugh – Founder, Marsden Strategy

Jackie Hyde – Managing Director, Stanmore Insurance Brokers

Jenny Matthews – Founder, Enterprise Bridge CIC

Julia Stichling – Managing Director, R2M Limited

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Kaye Price – Founder, KP Financial Wellbeing
Kelly Jackson – Managing Director, Jackson Accountants
Lauren Rigg – Senior Regulatory Litigator
Lucy Hart – Voices of RISE Contributor
Lucy Mulligan – Executive Director of Marketing, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Marie Hamilton – Strategic Partnership Director, Microsoft
Michelle Eagleton – Television & Radio Presenter, Broadcast Journalist & Event Host
Nathalie Speakman – Voices of RISE Contributor
Natacha Diskin – Style & Wellbeing Coach & Founder, Savvy Style
Nicola Sands – Award-Winning Former Television Journalist, Podcast Host & Co-Founder, Applehead Media
Parveen Kauser Ahmed – Voices of RISE Contributor
Professor Janice Allen – Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic Leadership, University of Lancashire
Rachel Fletcher – Slater Heelis Solicitors
Rebecca Leech – Director of Learner Experience & Essential Skills, Chelmsford College
Rebecca Wray – Voices of RISE Contributor
Safaa Alazzam – Project Manager, Dematic
Samantha Lancashire – Leadership Development Consultant, Executive Coach & Founder, Creating Lightbulb Moments
Sandra McManus – Director, RISE 2026
Sarah Birdsey – Managing Director & Owner, Nicholls Solicitors
Shehla Hasan – UK Director, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
Shailja Arya – HR Site Lead and Business Partner, Dematic
Sohini Roy Chowdhury – Leadership, Culture & Wellbeing Advocate
Subha Verma – Group Strategic Partnerships & Communications, HMRC
Sue Cain – Recipient, Stacey's Stepping Stone Award
Sue France – Networking Queen & Empower50K Champion
Susie Sprigg – The Connector, Founder, Show Your Light
Victoria Grayson – Support Services Director, Network Plus



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