

Rural Vulnerability Day  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House,  
Westminster, London, SW1A 2JR

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#ruralityouthmatter

# Good to Know



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@ruralenglandcic

Feel free to share snippets of this event including your comments, questions and learnings on Twitter

“Challenges facing rural 16-18 year olds in accessing appropriate education and work based learning”

– Report published by Rural England CIC

<https://ruralengland.org/challenges-facing-rural-16-18-year-olds-in-accessing-appropriate-education-and-work-based-learning/>

Thank you to the  
Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP  
for kindly hosting our event.

Thank you to  
Hastoe Housing Association  
for kindly sponsoring our event.

# Welcome to the Rural Vulnerability Day from the organisers:



## **Brian Wilson**

**Chair of Directors and Senior Researcher for Rural England CIC**

Brian Wilson is the Chair of Directors at Rural England CIC. He is currently leading Rural England's research on a Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit and on Net Zero in Rural Areas.

Brian Wilson is a freelance consultant who specialises in rural policy and rural development. He has undertaken commissioned projects for a range of well-known public, private and civil society sector organisations at national, regional and local levels. Prior to consultancy his career included substantive spells as a Director at the Countryside Agency and Commission for Rural Communities, as a Programme Manager in the local government sector and as a research professional in the civil service. He was a specialist adviser in 2018/19 to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy.

## **Graham Biggs MBE, FCIS, FRSA**

**Chief Executive of Rural Services Network and  
Company Secretary for Rural England CIC**

Graham is the Chief Executive of the Rural Services Network. He has been the Chief Officer & Executive of the Network since its formation in the early 2000's and of SPARSE-Rural for some five years before that. For over 20 years, until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 Graham had been the Chief Executive of the former South Shropshire District Council – one of England's most sparsely populated Districts.

Graham is a Fellow of both the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators and the RSA (Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce). He was awarded an MBE in 1995 for "Services to Local Government".

Graham is a Director of the National Centre for Rural Health and Care and he also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Rural Crime Network. Graham is the Principal Advisor to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services and the Company Secretary of Rural England Community Interest Company.



## **Margaret Clark CBE**

### **Chair of Rural England CIC Stakeholder Group**

Margaret is the Chair of the Rural England CIC Stakeholder Group. Her career was spent in government agencies specialising in rural development policy and practice. She was Deputy Chief Executive at the Countryside Agency and led the team to set up the Commission for Rural Communities, becoming one of its first Directors.

For several years she was the UK's representative on the OECD's Rural Working Party and its chair for 7 years. She now chairs the Rural Coalition, an alliance of 13 national organisations in England with a shared vision of living and working rural communities, and the Plunkett Foundation, which supports community-owned businesses in rural areas of the UK. She is also a member of CPRE's national trustee board.

# **We are using the Attlee Suite with kind permission of our host:**

## **Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP (Ludlow)**

### **Chair of APPG for Rural Services**

Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP was first elected the Conservative MP for Ludlow in 2005, having been a Councillor on South Shropshire District Council (2002-07). Ludlow is the sixth largest constituency in England comprising some 600 square miles of sparsely populated rural countryside stretching from the Welsh border to within six miles of Wolverhampton city centre, with over half within the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Philip was a Whip (2008-12), a Minister in Defence (2012-16) and Health (2016-18). He is now chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee, of which he has been a member since 2018. He was the inaugural Chairman of the APPG for Rural Services (2006-08) and became chair again in 2018.

## A Word from our Sponsors



### **Hastoe Housing Association**

Hastoe is a specialist rural housing association that owns and manages over 7,500 homes in over 70 local authority areas across the south of England. Established by the Sutton Dwellings Trust in 1962, the Association is a passionate supporter of rural communities and does this by providing affordable, high-quality, sustainable homes available in perpetuity. Hastoe works in close partnership with local authorities to enable local people to remain within their communities and help keep rural services sustainable. Its award-winning social housing is energy efficient and built to a standard well above that required by Building Regulations. Since 2011, it has built more than 100 homes to Passivhaus standard; a highly energy-efficient building technique that can cut fuel bills for residents to as little as £130 per year. It has charitable status and any surplus is invested back into the communities in which it works.

<https://www.hastoe.com/>

# Rural Vulnerability Day

Kindly sponsored by



Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
10am – 2pm

## Agenda

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 10:00 – 10:15                         | <b>Registration</b><br>With refreshments available on arrival   |
| 10.15 – 10.30                         | <b>Introduction and Welcome</b><br>The Rt Hon. Philip Dunne MP, Chair of APPG for Rural Services  |
| <b>First Session</b><br>10.30 – 11.00 | <b>Challenges facing rural 16-18 year olds in accessing appropriate education and work based learning</b><br>Presentation by Dr Jane Hart, Director, Rural England CIC      |
| 11.00 – 11.15                         | <b>Issues relating to young people finding work in his Constituency</b><br>Comments by Huw Merriman MP (Bexhill & Battle)   |
| 11.15 – 11.30                         | <b>EU Youth Dialogue: Progress &amp; Updates – Implementation phase</b><br>Presentation by Andrea Ugrinoska, International Participation Coordinator, British Youth Council |
| 11.30 – 11.45                         | <b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b>   |



## **Second Session**

11.45 – 12.15

### **Presentations from young people living in rural areas and and their representative organisations**

#### **Rural isolation and lack of infrastructure**

Introduction by Nik Harwood, Chief Executive, Young Somerset  
and Chairman, Rural Services Partnership

Presentation by Chris Bown and Shalia Frew on their  
experiences as young people living in Somerset

#### **The challenges and opportunities for young people growing up in rural areas**

Introduction by Shernyse Lee, Engagement and Advocacy  
Manager, UK Youth

Presentation by Ema on transport issues and Joshua on lack of  
opportunities for BME students. Both represent UK Youth Voice

12.15 – 12.30

### **Q&A and Discussion**

12.30 – 13:00

### **Lunch and Networking Opportunity**

## **Third Session**

13:00 – 13:30

### **Tailoring housing to address the needs of young people**

Presentation by Gavin Jones, Head of Communications and  
External Affairs, Hastoe Group

Short Q&A

13:30 – 13:45

### **Closing Comments**

N.B. The Attlee Suite must be cleared by 14.00 p.m.

# Speakers

## Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP

Philip Dunne is the Member of Parliament for Ludlow. Please see Phillip's biography at the front of the booklet.

## Dr Jane Hart

Jane is a self-employed rural consultant with a particular interest in rural services and rural vulnerability. Her areas of expertise include rural social policy; rural deprivation; and strategic and local planning policy issues.

Prior to becoming a consultant in 2011, Jane spent over 30 years in Local Authority planning roles (including research, policy, and senior management) in rural areas of Wales, Scotland and England.

She is a Director of Rural England CIC.

## Huw Merriman MP

Huw grew up in Buckinghamshire where he attended local state schools and college. He read law at Durham University.

Huw qualified as a barrister and spent 17 years as an in-house banking and finance lawyer. His final position was as a Managing Director leading a team of lawyers unwinding the Lehman Brothers estate in Europe. Huw spent 5 years as a trustee and volunteer in a youth charity set up following the Brixton riots and a further 5 years as a governor of a secondary school in London. From 2007 to 2015 Huw served as the Wealden District Councillor for Rotherfield. He was elected as MP for Bexhill and Battle in May 2015.

Huw was elected as Chair of the Transport Select Committee in January 2020, is the Chair of the APPG for Bees and Pollinators, Chair of the BBC APPG and is an officer of the Autism APPG.

## Andrea Ugrinoska

Andrea Ugrinoska, originally from North Macedonia, is the International Participation Coordinator for the British Youth Council. She has been dealing with the management of the EU Youth Dialogue for the UK, while supporting young people to participate in political international spaces where decisions are being made. She also sits on the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, co-deciding on the programme of the Youth Department together with representatives of youth ministers of the member states of the CoE. She has a bachelor in Psychology, and two MA degrees – one from the Free University in Brussels, the Institute of European Studies, and another in Peace and Conflict from the University of Innsbruck, Austria.



## Nik Harwood

Nik has spent his career in children & young people's services – both in the voluntary and public sectors. He has focused most of his professional life in Somerset but has operated at a regional and national level. He has been Chief Executive of two youth organisations, adept at transformational change and with a track record of creativity, innovation and partnership development. Nik is passionate about making a difference in the lives of young people – ensuring that their voice is amplified in work he leads; having grown up in West Somerset, Nik has experienced the issues of being young in a sparsely populated rural landscape. Currently Nik is the Chief Executive of Young Somerset & Chair of the Rural Services Partnership.

## Chris Bown

My name is Chris Bown and I am 18 years old and I live in Bridgwater, Somerset. I am currently studying media and film at Strode College. I travel to college on my motorbike and enjoy riding around the county. I volunteer on Saturdays and Sundays as a referee for my local football club and enjoying coaching young people. I enjoy creative writing, and, in the future, I'd love to direct films. I am a keen member of the Young Somerset youth board and enjoy supporting the organisation and working to improve services for young people.

## Shalia Frew

My name is Shalia Frew and I am 18 years old. Currently I live in Glastonbury, Somerset and I am hoping to have a future career working with young people. I first got involved with Young Somerset in 2018 when I took part in the NCS programme and have continued to work with Young Somerset ever since. I am a member of the youth board and have supported the organisation in a variety of different events. In my spare time I like to spend time with my family and change my hair colour often.

## Shernyse Lee

Shernyse is the Engagement and Advocacy Manager at UK Youth, working to support local youth organisations in the South East, South West and North West to champion high-quality youth work and to establish great connections and opportunities for young people to access these services. She also supports our Youthwork Essential and Effective Safeguarding masterclasses. She is also very keen to get more young people doing the ASDAN accredited youth achievement awards.

## Ema (UK Youth Voice)

Ema is 23 years old, representing the South East and is currently working at Ashford hospital in the cellular pathology department as a Health assistant. Ema will be discussing issues that young people in rural areas face due to transport.

## Joshua (UK Youth Voice)

Joshua is 23 years old and represents Yorkshire and The Humber. Joshua who is currently studying at Anglia Ruskin University will be discussing the lack of opportunities for BME students in rural areas.

## Gavin Jones

Gavin is the Head of Communications and External Affairs. He joined Hastoe in 2018 but has worked in communications as well as community and stakeholder relations in local government and social housing since 2007. Gavin is an advocate for improved standards in social housing and the need to listen to communities to ensure the appropriate infrastructure, support and resources are in place to enable people to have control over their own lives and life choices. Prior to this he worked as both a documentary maker and broadcast journalist for the BBC, Channel 4 TV and Radio Television Hong Kong.

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## Current Rural England Publications

Challenges facing rural 16-18 year olds in accessing appropriate education and work based learning

Report by Dr Jane Hart, published by Rural England CIC.

<https://ruralengland.org/challenges-facing-rural-16-18-year-olds-in-accessing-appropriate-education-and-work-based-learning/>

## Previous Rural England Publications

Housing and Employment: A Survey of Rural Residents' Experiences and Opinions

Published in June 2019 is a summary of the key findings from a survey managed by CCRI (University of Gloucestershire) and supported by Rural England.

<https://ruralengland.org/housing-and-employment-a-survey-of-rural-residents-experiences-and-opinions/>

### State of Rural Services 2018 report

Published in February 2019 this report presents the most recent evidence regarding the provision of services to residents and businesses in rural England. It covers 8 service areas, which are: local buses and community transport, broadband and mobile connectivity, public library services, hospitals, public health services, young people's services, shops and online shopping and personal advice services.

<https://ruralengland.org/state-of-rural-services-report-2018/>

### Research Report – Unlocking the digital potential of rural areas across the UK

Report and research undertaken by Rural England CIC and Scottish Rural College. Report commissioned by Amazon.

<https://ruralengland.org/unlocking-the-digital-potential-of-rural-areas-full-report/>

### Issues facing Providers of Social Care at Home to Older Residents in Rural England

Report by Dr Jane Hart and Jo Lavis. Report is available from our website.

<https://ruralengland.org/category/reports/>

### State of Rural Services Report 2016

Published in January 2017 this report presented evidence regarding the provision of services to residents and businesses in rural England. It covered nine service areas, which are: local buses and community transport, welfare services, access to cash, further education, the retail sector, mental health services, older people's services, public health services and community assets.

<https://ruralengland.org/the-state-of-rural-services-2016-report/>

### Rural Vulnerability – Older People

This research investigates key issues affecting the vulnerability of older rural residents and considers their future implications in the context of an ageing rural population. It includes chapters on Income and Poverty, Health, Adverse Actions of Others and Isolation and Loneliness.

<https://ruralengland.org/rural-vulnerability-older-people/>

# About the Organisers

## Rural England CIC

Rural England is a Community Interest Company managed by its team of Directors: <https://ruralengland.org/>

Our mission is to build the strength and resilience of rural England by helping to inform and engender better rural policy making. We do this by encouraging informed debate, providing independent research and evidence and supporting informed information exchange.

There are two strands to Rural England CIC; our Stakeholders and our Supporters:

- The Stakeholder group is made up of representatives from over 30 National organisations in England who have rural interests or concerns and people previously involved with the Commission for Rural Communities. The Stakeholders' role is to help steer the work and shape the outputs (research reports, etc). The CIC is seeking to undertake independent research, establish rural networks and identify and broadcast best rural practice.
- The Supporter group (approx. 30 members) is made up mainly of infrastructure companies, currently Energy, Water Companies, Transport and Broadband providers, plus Land Owners and Land Agents, who are prepared to support our aims by investing annually through subscriptions into this national research, networking and best practice work.

It matters that we have a robust, up-to-date and trusted evidence base about rural areas and services. It is a basis for assessing the right policy responses to rural challenges and opportunities. It enables informed debate about the best way to deliver services and initiatives to rural communities and businesses. In a fast-changing world, it is a means for identifying rural trends and upcoming issues.