

TF: PLEASE DO INTRODUCE YOURSELF, WHO YOU ARE, RECENT CAREER HISTORY AND ORGANISATIONS YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY?

EM: It's actually quite hard to neatly summarise my career as I don't have a linear career trajectory in the way that others might. I'll say I'm a former Chief Executive who has worked across higher education, the commercial sector as well as in the public sector and I have always gravitated towards health and education.

TF: CAN YOU TELL US A BIT MORE ABOUT THE WORK YOU'RE DOING CURRENTLY?

EM: I'm working with several organisations in a non-executive capacity at the moment. I Chair the Bradford Children and Families Trust, an organisation I've worked with for two years now since before their inception and it is possibly one of the most challenging roles I've done.

I also Chair a Mental Health and Community Trust close to my home and my heart, Cambridge and Peterborough Foundation NHS Foundation Trust. During COVID I was very alive to the likely impacts the pandemic might have on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people and I felt strongly about seeking to make a commitment and contribution to our mental health services.

Finally, I sit on the board at Ofqual. I have a passion for the transformative abilities of education and skills acquisition, I firmly believe that the way that education and skills interact can only serve to impact positively on productivity and greater equity in the economy and wider society. I'm really trying to bring focus onto apprenticeships and vocational education so we treat those with the same weight of importance as traditional qualifications like GCSEs and A Levels.

TF: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO TRANSFER THEIR SKILLS TO OTHER SECTORS OR DO SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT IN THEIR CAREER?

EM: Unfortunately, there's no magic bullet at all on this topic and it's something I'm frequently asked about. I did work in different sectors myself and I'm a real champion for bringing people in from different backgrounds; I was very fortunate in my career that I had people who championed me as a candidate, and I've tried to repay this in terms of the way that I support people to traverse sectors. I urge those recruiting to positions to reflect rather less on where candidates come from and to be more willing to look at CVs which might be slightly different, to see what benefits different skillsets and backgrounds can bring. For candidates, you must be prepared to talk clearly about what your motivations are and to make sure you're well prepared with a strong application -some of the public service recruitment processes can feel very alien to those whose careers have been in the commercial sector.