



Our leadership team

Biographies

Harry MacMillan
Chief Executive Officer and Board Member

Harry is a co-founder of MEND. Since 2003 Harry has helped develop MEND's model and create the organisation, moving from initial research to a social enterprise with multiple programmes being delivered at 300+ sites per term. Internally, Harry leads on strategy, operations, finance and internationalisation. Externally, he focuses on building mutually beneficial partnerships with stakeholders in the UK and internationally.

Before MEND, Harry was the Managing Partner of Kick-Start Ventures International where he helped a range of small and medium-sized European organisations plan for and manage growth and raise funds, as well as providing strategic consulting services to blue-chip companies. Before that he worked with Mercer Management Consulting.

Harry holds an MA and MSc. from Oxford University.

Paul Sacher
Chief Research and Development Officer and Board Member

Paul is a co-founder of MEND and has led its research and programme development teams since MEND was founded in 2004. Paul also led the original team that developed and evaluated the MEND 7-13 programme in 2001-2002. Paul is also a Senior Research Fellow and Head of MEND Research at the MRC Childhood Nutrition Research Centre, University College London (UCL) Institute of Child Health and an Honorary Principal Paediatric Dietitian at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust.

Paul previously worked in the NHS for more than eleven years and is a recognised author and expert in child health and obesity. Paul has been an invited speaker at over 40 national and international conferences and has published over 20 peer-reviewed scientific publications and three books. His book, *From Kid to Superkid* (Vermilion) has been highly acclaimed by health professionals and parents. He was the child health consultant for Jamie Oliver's *Return to*

Jamie's School Dinners (Channel 4) and regularly appeared on *Honey, We're Killing the Kids* (BBC One and BBC Three). He has also been interviewed numerous times on national news channels and regularly appears on *BBC Breakfast* and ITV's *This Morning*.

He is a previous holder of a Department of Health Researcher Development Award and is a current trustee of the National Obesity Forum. Paul is registered with the Health Professions Council and a member of the European Child Obesity Group, the British Dietetic Association, the Association for the Study of Obesity, the Nutrition Society and the USA Obesity Society.

Paul has a Bachelor of Science in Medicine and a two-year honours degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Cape Town, South Africa and is currently completing his PhD in child health at UCL.

Dr Paul Chadwick
Clinical Director

Paul is a leading clinical and health psychologist and specialist in the field of child obesity at University College London. He provides regular training to healthcare professionals in the field of obesity.

Tracey Bleakley
Operations and Delivery Director

Tracey has worked for MEND since 2009, following a 13-year career in operations and management consulting. Her consultancy career spanned PWC and Accenture, as well as an in-house strategy position at ITV. Tracey designed and managed a number of large projects covering clients such as BP, Sun Life, Ann Summers, O2 and BPP in addition to setting up back-office functions for a number of demergers and internet start-ups. She has worked in the UK, Europe, US, and Australia, and has held a number of board positions with UK not-for-profit organisations.

Tracey is a policy advisor to The Bow Group (a centre-right think-tank) on health education, and has published a research paper in health education in the UK. She holds a BEng from Brunel University, an MBA from the University of Durham, and post-graduate qualifications in social and international policy

Madeline Freeman

Director, Australia

Madeline joined MEND in 2005 and worked in London as the team's nutritionist before returning to her native Australia in September 2007 to establish a local office.

Madeline holds a Diploma of Nutrition from the Australian College of Natural Medicine and has three years' clinical experience.

Prior to that, Madeline worked in management for an international advertising sales company in Australia, South Africa and the Netherlands.

Dr Gordon Macmillan

International Partnership Development Director

Gordon joined MEND in 2005 and currently directs MEND's partnership development activities in the Middle East.

Previously, he consulted for Cafédirect, the World Bank Group, the G7, the EC, and the UK Government as a social development advisor. He has also supported global venture capitalists to identify investment opportunities in high-growth companies.

Gordon holds a PhD from the University of Edinburgh and has published in the UK and the USA.

Rachael McGrath

UK Partnership Development Director

Rachael has a management career spanning 14 years within the healthcare sector. Rachael has held general manager positions and other senior roles in a specialist international health systems consultancy where she worked with clients including UN agencies and the World Health Organisation.

She joined MEND from Humana Europe, a provider of commissioning support services to Primary Care Trusts. At Humana she was a Business Development Manager with a particular focus on their health and wellbeing solutions.

Rachael is a management and languages graduate and has an MBA from Bradford University School of Management.

Navin Pareek
Chief Information Officer

Navin has nine years' experience in the development and management of extensive, complex projects. He has varied experience in IT, Operations and Strategy in global companies including BT, MCI & CNBC, and manages the operations for MEND. Navin has an undergraduate degree in Engineering and an MBA from London Business School.

Lisa Taylor
Strategic Partnerships Director

Before joining MEND in March 2009, Lisa managed the Health and Fitness brand “kinetika” for DC Leisure, representing over 30% of the company's £90 million turnover generated from 72 leisure centres across the UK.

Lisa created MEND's first adult programme, a six-week behaviour change programme approved by the Department of Health, designed to support those wishing to lead a healthier lifestyle. She has also been instrumental in cementing the key partnership between MEND and the Fitness Industry Association (FIA).

Phil Veasey
Strategic Partnerships Director

Phil joined MEND in September 2009 following a successful 21-year career in national roles in sports development where he earned a reputation for fast, efficient delivery of national programmes to local communities.

Phil created and implemented the national Mini Tennis Programme for the Lawn Tennis Association, which is going worldwide in 2012. At Sport England, Phil led the development and implementation of the £36 million, three-year Sport Unlimited programme within the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People – attracting over 200,000 'unsporty' young people into sport.