**Dr Fiona Creaby** (EdD, FHEA)

I am passionate about using my knowledge and skills to support the development and sustainability of Disability Rights UK. Alongside my own lived experience of physical disability, chronic health challenges and neurodiversity, I bring professional experience to support robust governance, financial stewardship and strategic leadership. I am an experienced charity trustee currently serving my second 3-year term as Vice-Chair (for Finance & Risk) of the British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society (BELMAS), a UK-based international education research charity.

I have a professional background in academia where I am a research and teaching scholar in professional practice and leadership development. I hold faculty positions and external examiner roles at several UK Higher Education Institutes, including Manchester Metropolitan University. Prior to joining academia, my working life spanned various leadership, management and administration roles in different contexts, including state schools, local public sector, performance arts, and the non-profit sector. I followed a work-based practitioner learning route to develop the skills, knowledge and qualifications that led from administrative roles to senior management roles, where I focused predominantly on operational and financial management and people leadership. I moved into academia to pursue research and scholarship, gaining my professional doctorate in leadership development.

My academic research focus on identity studies, professional development and leadership with a particular interest in disability, working lives, and non-traditional routes of learning. Motivated by my lived experience and the challenges I have faced with increasing disability over time, I am inspired by the journeys of others in similar situations and how barriers can be navigated and challenged to influence sustainable positive change.