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Issue 15

Inspiring women to work  
in the Social Enterprise &  
Social Investment  
Sectors

In association with:



## Ruth Brock

### Shakespeare Schools Foundation

Ruth is CEO of Shakespeare Schools Foundation, a cultural education charity that gives thousands of children of any ability and background across the UK the crucial skills they need to succeed in life.

Prior to this, Ruth was a primary school teacher in Tower Hamlets, relaunched a small inclusive theatre charity and spent six years working in as a parliamentary researcher, media manager and senior press officer, including for the former Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg.

Whilst teaching, Ruth's class performed in the 2013 Shakespeare Schools Festival and the impact on her children was so fundamental, Ruth was determined to work for the charity.

Ruth has an English degree from Cambridge University. In her spare time she belongs to a poetry collective, Hornet Press and is otherwise usually found in the gym, the theatre, walking the green spaces of London or in a coffee shop.

### What would be your 3 top tips to someone looking to do what you do?

1. Love what you do – you're going to spend an awful lot of time doing it!
2. A good coach can be invaluable.
3. Lose the imposter syndrome.



### What do you love most about the work you do?

The charity's impact. Confident, articulate, empathetic children are the key to what we want to achieve as a society and I know that SSF makes that happen. Every year, thousands of young people learn more about who they are and their potential through our work.

### Who inspires you?

Teachers with incredible commitment to the children; MPs who stand up for their views, such as: Anna Soubry and Stella Creasy, Anna Wafula Strike and Carrie Gracie; and closer to home, my friends and family; I'm insanely proud of them all.

### What is your biggest achievement to date?

Taken together, SSF's recent evaluation and our staff survey paint a picture of a dedicated, confident team who are having a huge impact on children's life chances. There's so much still to do, but that gives me new heart everyday. But I hope the best is yet to come!