Ann is a business leader and charity entrepreneur who is the first ever female chair of The Scout Association, the UK’s largest youth engagement charity. She is also chair of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), one of 39 private sector-led economic development partnerships set up by the Coalition Government to stimulate innovation, inward investment, economic growth and job creation.

Former Principal of Milton Keynes and Cambridge Regional Colleges, Ann was Chief Executive of the University for Industry (Ufi Ltd) from 2000-05, the organisation behind the successful implementation of the UK Government’s flagship digital learning initiative learndirect and the national e-services programmes Direct Gov and UK online.

From 2005-10, Ann was the Senior Vice President for the international strategic management consultancy Citizen Service Transformation and worked as a government adviser both in the UK and overseas.

Ann is also currently vice-president of the national educational charity, the Helena Kennedy Foundation, which she founded in 1998 to promote social inclusion in further and higher education by awarding bursaries to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Manchester-born Ann is also deputy lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, where she has lived since 1986.