Over recent years there has been an emerging body of evidence highlighting a sharp rise in educators experiencing behavioural, psychological, and physical symptoms as a result of their work. Education Support Partnership’s latest Teacher Wellbeing Index reported rising levels of anxiety and depression across the profession, with early career teachers and senior leaders amongst those at highest risk. This has resulted in more than half of all educators having considered leaving the sector over the past two years as a result of health pressures.

In this keynote, I explore why investing in the wellbeing and mental health of our education workforce is paramount for the future success of educational standards and pupil outcomes. This will include a systemic look at the multiple layers that determine educator wellbeing, including the impact of complex structural pressures through to workplace culture and professional development.

The presentation will address the need to appreciate the link between staff and student mental health; rebuild and increase efficacy of teachers; support the development of emotionally intelligent leadership practice; provide mandatory wellbeing guidance within Initial Teacher Training; and ensure everyone working in schools has access to accredited counselling. Furthermore, it will reflect on the current gaps within the educator wellbeing evidence base and the need to work collaboratively across the sector to agree research prioritises and share best practice.

**Sinéad McBrearty** is CEO at Education Support Partnership – the UK’s only charity dedicated to improving the wellbeing and mental health of the entire education workforce. Sinéad is an experienced leader with a breadth of knowledge and involvement within the not-for-profit sector, including as Deputy Chief Executive at Social Enterprise London. Sinéad is currently a Trustee and Honorary Treasurer of The Kaleidoscope Trust and an Associate Governor at Sudbourne Primary School. Sinéad believes passionately in ensuring those working in education feel valued, respected, supported and resilient.