



## Welcome to the Nuffield Foundation Professor David Rhind, Chair of Trustees

The Nuffield Foundation was set up in 1943, six months after the publication of the Beveridge Report, in a world in which change was endemic, and, of course, unpredictable. Lord Nuffield's trust deed set out two main objectives: the advancement of social well-being and of educational opportunity. Today, 74 years on, we also operate in a world of fundamental and rapid change, and those objectives are still every bit as valuable today as they were then. We achieve them by funding research that is framed to have a direct impact not just on the academic community, but also on workable policy solutions and the practices that follow from them. Our objectives are therefore not simply those of a research council, important as the research councils are, and even though the research we fund has to stand up to rigorous academic scrutiny. In anything we fund, we seek to improve education and skills, and to advance justice and social well-being, particularly for those whose opportunities are constrained by disadvantage at different points in their lives.

The strategy that we are publishing today was developed in consultation with our closest partners and stakeholder, many of whom I am delighted to see here tonight, so thank you all for that. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our newest Trustee, Sir Keith Burnett, who will be taking over as Chair when my term comes to end in a year's time.

Our Chief Executive Tim Gardam, and three of our Trustees, will now summarise areas of the strategy, but before I hand over to them I would like to make two other points. The first is that the new strategy is an ambitious one, and one which we are passionate about implementing successfully. How, you might reasonably ask, can a small foundation of about 30 people actually make it all happen? The answer is twofold: first, we have done well in our investments. When I took over as Chair, seven years ago, the investment portfolio was worth £240 million. Today it is worth £405 million, which means we can fund rather more than we have been doing of late. In addition, we work in partnership with others, including the ESRC, MRC, Royal Society, British Academy, Royal Society of Chemistry, Royal Statistical Society, and the Wellcome Trust. This enables us to combine resources and skills so that we can tackle areas of joint interest which would be too large for us to tackle on our own.

Central to the new strategy, are the implications of an increasingly data-enabled society, and ongoing technological change. These cross-cut the domains that our strategy is built upon: Education, Welfare and Justice. Almost by coincidence, today [may] mark a big step forward on this technological and data-governance area. With us in the audience are Geneva Richardson, a member of the [Royal Society and British Academy Working Group on data management and use](#), whose report was published today. The report sets out a strong case for creating a new national body to steward the evolution of the data-governance landscape; something which we hold as very important. The Nuffield Foundation welcomes that report,

and we have indicated that we would be prepared to fund a complementary body for a more strategic research fund, probably called the Convention on Data Ethics, and modelled in part on the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, which we have funded for 25 years, together with MRC and Wellcome.

I am delighted to say that the Royal Society and the British Academy welcomed our proposed contribution to this rapidly-developing area of data governance, demonstrating again the value of partnerships.

Thank you very much for listening, and I will now hand over to our Chief Executive, Tim Gardam.