



Eilish McDowell

**Fundraiser & Executive Search Specialist**



From the get-go Eilish was drawn to working within the third sector, originally volunteering at a charity in Haddington supporting people with Down's Syndrome and then pushing a tea trolley round St Columba's Hospice while studying history at the University of Edinburgh.

Clearly a forward thinker, whilst a partner with Greyfriars Property Services, she introduced the concept of corporate social responsibility to the company and projects included staff fundraising through charity walks and selecting a charity to receive a Christmas donation instead of sending Christmas cards. Never one to shy away from a challenge she ran the New York Marathon for Capability Scotland during her time at the company.

Fast forward several years and she started working for Winning Leishman Fundraising Consultants where she learned how to fundraise for a wide variety of clients, focusing on specialist trust and foundation applications. During that time, she completed the Management Centre Arts Fundraising Course.

Through her success, Eilish was approached and accepted a founding directorship at BTA and so moved into recruitment consultancy. Here, she specialised in executive search for universities and independent schools. Clients included Keble College, Oxford, University of York, University of the Highlands and Islands and George Watson's College.

Passionate about causes, Eilish returned to fundraising and took up further positions as Interim Director of Development at the Royal Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh, Philanthropy Manager at Aberlour and Fundraising Manager at the Teapot Trust.

Inspired by these roles and the desire to help others, Eilish has become the Managing Director of Caithness Consulting, focusing on executive search for educational institutions.

Eilish has a degree in History from the University of Edinburgh and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising. Additionally, she is a Fellow of the Institute of Sales and Marketing.